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We wanted hostages, say terrorists

Family killed in massacre at the temple

By Christopher Walker and Paul Wilkinson

THREE generations of a single family were among the British victims of the Luxor massacre, it emerged yesterday as the full extent of the Islamic terrorists' brutality in killing 58 foreign tourists became clear.

Five-year-old Shaunnah Turner, her mother Karina and grandmother Joan, from Rippon, West Yorkshire, were on the third day of their holiday when they were murdered outside the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

Yesterday their bodies were flown to a Cairo mortuary to await repatriation along with the other massacre victims, including George and Ivy Wigham, from Swanley, in Kent and Sylvia Wilder, a 26-year-old air stewardess from the South East of England.

They had been killed as part of an operation by the Islamic group Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya in an attempt to force the release of its spiritual leader Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, who is in jail in America for plotting to blow up the World Trade Centre in New York.

Admitting responsibility for the massacre yesterday, the group said that it had intended to seize hostages. But witnesses to the three-hour shoot-out said the six gunmen had made no attempt to take captives. They had climbed from their car and immediately fired at tourists with automatic weapons, then stabbed some of their victims to make sure they were dead.

Rosemarie Dousse, a Swiss survivor, said: "They shot everyone in the arms and legs.



Joan Turner: ran agency caring for the elderly

Then they killed everyone who was alive with a shot to the head." And Mahmoud al-Rawi, a bus driver wounded in the attack, said: "They came into the temple shooting. When their clips ran out, they took out knives and started slaughtering people."

Gamaa's admission that it carried out the attack came as President Mubarak visited the massacre site and promised action within 48 hours to tighten security at all his country's important tourist sites. He criticised his ministers for the lax security, and said that heads would roll.

"The area is full of tourists and you tell me police are two kilometres away. This is a joke of strategy." Within hours, the Security Minister Hassan el-Alfi had resigned.

The rapid response was an indication of how seriously the Government regards the terrorist threat to its international reputation and tourism industry. But it was not

enough to deter tour operators from all over the world pulling their clients out of the country and hundreds of Britons arrived home early yesterday.

Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, said that it was bringing back all its holiday-makers in Egypt and would not be flying there again this month. Other big companies took a similar approach, but they found resistance from customers angry about being forced to go home against their wishes.

Many felt that the companies — and the Foreign Office, which advised travellers to avoid the Luxor area — were over-reacting and that they should have been given the option of staying. Their complaint was borne out by Thomas Cook, which said that only two of its 140 clients in Egypt had decided to come home. The company intended to go ahead with its Nile Discovery Tour flight on Saturday, although the tour would avoid the Luxor area.

The son of two of the British victims was, however, alarmed by the terrorist threat and had tried to persuade his parents to change their destination. Ivy Wigham, 71, and her husband George, 69, had flown out to Egypt last Thursday for a celebration holiday after Mrs Wigham completed an Open University course.

Their son, Paul, said that he had been concerned about the murder of nine Germans on a tour bus outside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in September and had urged his parents to reconsider. "We said to



Karina Turner with her daughter Shaunnah. They had been in Egypt for three days

them to get their agents to find them another holiday, but they said they would be all right. They just liked the idea of going down the Nile."

As friends of the Wighams in Kent were mourning the couple, so the people of the Yorkshire village of Rippon were remembering Shaunnah Turner and her family. A special assembly was held at St Mary's Infants School and a photograph was put on display by her friends.

Shaunnah had gone on holiday with her 24-year-old mother, an air stewardess, and her grandmother, who ran a care agency for the elderly and disabled. The three had shared their home with Shaunnah's aunt, Deborah, the sole surviving member of the family. Ms Turner, a 30-year-old Salford University student, said: "I've lost my mother and my sister and my beautiful niece. I've lost every-

thing." The sixth British victim was also an air stewardess, Sylvia Wilder, who held dual British and Bulgarian nationality, had worked for Monarch Airlines for six months. She was based at Gatwick and lived in the South East, but the airline did not know whether she was married or had children.

Victims like sheep, page 2
Tourists' anger, page 3
Simon Jenkins, page 22

US build-up over Iraq as Russia says peace at hand

By Tom Rhodes and Michael Binyon

AMERICA stepped up the pressure on President Saddam Hussein yesterday as Russia announced that it had worked out a plan to end peacefully the crisis between Iraq and the United Nations.

The US reinforced its number of warplanes in the Gulf in response to Iraq's "offensive posture". The Pentagon said that Iraq's air defences were "extremely active" and appeared to be pointing threateningly at allied flights. "We are reacting in part to a graver threat we spot in the area," Ken Bacon, the department spokesman said.

The new deployment would include six F117A Stealth bombers, to be positioned in Kuwait, and six cruise missile-carrying B52 bombers to be stationed on Diego Garcia, the British dependent territory in the Indian Ocean.

An additional force of 30 aircraft, including F15 and F16 fighters as well as two B1 bombers was standing ready to fly to Bahrain if requested by the American commander in the Gulf. As many as six KC135 airborne tankers also were being sent.

The Pentagon statement came after Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, flew unexpectedly to Moscow for talks with President Yeltsin and Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister.

Mr Primakov said afterwards: "As a result of these talks, a specific programme has been worked out which, we believe, allows us to avoid military confrontation and the use of military methods, and to move towards liquidating this crisis, of course with Iraq fulfilling the corresponding UN Security Council resolutions."

He gave no details of the

plan and there was no word from the Iraqi delegation. Mr Primakov said Mr Yeltsin had urged him to meet the US, French and British foreign ministers today and that, if he could not, he would speak to them by telephone.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, dropped a trip to Agra from her India travel schedule today to continue to pursue intensive contacts with her counterparts from Britain, France and Russia. James Rubin, her spokesman, said it had not been decided whether she would meet the foreign ministers of those countries somewhere in Europe for talks on resolving the standoff with Iraq.

"There has been no decision at this point about any meeting," he said, responding to reports that Mr Primakov, Hubert Vedrine, the French Foreign Minister, and Robin Cook would meet today in Geneva.

Britain yesterday gave a warning that Iraq probably still had enough missiles and chemical and biological weapons to be able to launch an attack on Israel or Saudi Arabia "within days".

According to a Whitehall intelligence assessment, declassified yesterday by the Foreign Office, the possibility that Saddam retains a handful of largely completed missiles and chemical and biological weapons "cannot not be ruled out".

"Provided it still has key components — and that is unclear — Iraq could within a few months build, with little risk of detection, missiles capable of hitting Israel and key targets in Saudi Arabia," the assessment said.

Primakov progress, page 16

Laura Ashley's chief is fired

Ann Iverson has been fired as chief executive of Laura Ashley, the troubled fashion and furnishings retailer, after just 30 months in the job and will receive £450,000 compensation for loss of office.

The company's finance director is also set to leave as soon as a replacement is found. Page 27

Howard backed

The public strongly supported the tough crime policies initiated by Michael Howard as Home Secretary the latest British Social Attitudes report found. Page 11

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Royal aircraft makes emergency landing as engines run out of oil

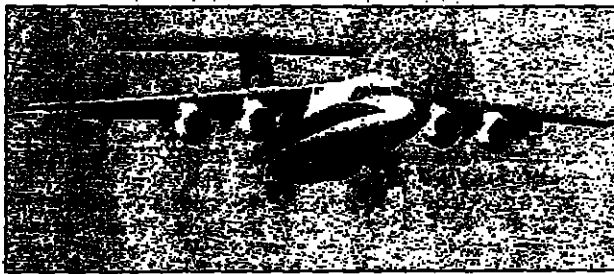
By Michael Evans and Alan Hamilton

AN AIRCRAFT of the Royal Flight was forced to make an emergency landing when three out of its four engines failed after a catastrophic fall in oil pressure.

The drama occurred during a training flight, when a senior RAF instructor was on board with a trainee captain and a flight engineer. The Duke of York had travelled as a passenger on the BAe 146 only a few days earlier.

When the pilot landed at Stansted, Essex, it was discovered that even the fourth engine was in trouble. Low oil pressure warnings lights were showing on three of the engines and full emergency measures were in place as the plane came in to land.

An investigation has been under way since the incident and it has emerged that none of the oil seals had been replaced during routine maintenance work carried out by a



A BAe 146 of the Royal Flight. "Oil was pouring out"

private contractor, FRA Serco. "Oil was just pouring out of the engine," an MoD official said.

The maintenance work had been carried out after the Duke's flight in the aircraft, which is one of three attached to No 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt, west of London.

The BAe 146s are used by the Queen, members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and other Cabinet ministers. A BAe 146 brought back the coffin of the Princess of Wales to Northolt from Paris

on August 31. The Queen returned with other members of the Royal Family from Balmoral on a BAe 146 to attend the Princess's funeral and the Prince of Wales flew in one during a nine-day tour of the former republics of Soviet central Asia earlier this year. The MoD said the aircraft had operated properly for the Duke of York's flight. "The problem only arose after the plane had been in for modest maintenance work," an RAF official said.

The plane took off from Northolt for the training flight

on November 6. The MoD emphasised that the trainee captain was a fully qualified pilot, but had just joined No 32 Squadron.

Fifteen minutes into the sortie, the three-man crew observed "fluctuations" in all the engine oil quantity indicators. "They saw there was a problem in all the engines and immediately initiated a return to base," the MoD official said.

However, a low oil pressure warning light started to flash on one of the engines, which was immediately shut down. The pilot sent out a Mayday call and decided to head for Stansted, the nearest airport.

Two more oil pressure warning lights started to flash and the pilot was forced to reduce the power on two other engines to "flight idle", which provides only minimum power.

Before landing, the pilot shut down a second engine, then the third one as the plane taxied on the runway.



Waiting lists rise by 1,000 a week

Hospital waiting lists in England are now growing by more than 1,000 patients a week, forcing the Government to water down its election promise to cut them quickly by 100,000.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has managed to raise £5 million from savings on NHS red tape to set up new units to oversee greater efficiency by health authorities. Page 9

Audience makes Tchaikovsky's 1812 go pop

By Russell Jenkins

THE AUDIENCE at a performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture in Manchester last week may be more than usually tense as the triumphant climax of the work approaches.

Just before the concert hall normally echoes to the crash of cannon fire while the Russian and French national anthems battle it out, next week's audience in the Bridgewater Hall will be waiting for their cue from Timothy Reynish, the conductor, to provide the sound themselves — by bursting 4,000 inflated paper bags.

Tchaikovsky specified the cannon

shots to represent the triumphant Russian guns firing as Napoleon and his troops were forced to retreat from Moscow in the winter of 1812. But Mr Reynish, who is head of the wind and percussion school at The Royal Northern College of Music, decided that cannon would be an unnecessarily expensive luxury at the Proms/Aid Concert designed to raise funds for the British Red Cross.

He got the paper bags, some bearing the legend "Thank you — call again", from his local newsagent, so they have no specific percussive properties. They will be distributed to members of the full-house audience as they enter the

auditorium. Mr Reynish aims to separate the audience into four groups and then briefly rehearse them in the art of blowing up a paper bag silently.

"It's a problem for the conductor, co-ordinating it all, because you have 140 musicians on stage and 2,000 in the audience. It is quite a problem synchronising 4,000 paper bags," he said, adding: "I think we are all excited and fired up about it. The climax will be a nervous time. If we have 2,000 people being nervous at the same time, we will be sure to get the adrenalin flowing."

Tchaikovsky, who claimed he wrote the overture with "no warm feelings"

intended it to be performed in a Moscow square with a large orchestra, military band and cathedral bells as well as the cannon shots. But the first performance was on August 20, 1882, in a hall specially constructed for the Moscow Exhibition.

Dr Rosemary Williamson, librarian at The Royal Northern College, said: "The cannons were included in the original performance. They were meant to commemorate the victory of Russia over Napoleon in 1812. It will be very interesting to hear the effect of paper bags. It sounds like it's going to be a really fun occasion that may well set a precedent."

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Scenes from a holiday film that turned into a horror: these pictures, taken by a British tourist, show Egyptian security forces in action after the massacre while shocked survivors wait near by

'They pulled victims on floor like sheep'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER,
PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON
AND DANIEL MCGRORY

AT LEAST four of the gunmen were hiding inside the Temple up to an hour before the ambush began, witnesses said last night. Disguised in the black uniform of police, they waited patiently for the first tourist buses of the day to arrive in the courtyard. Two more terrorists were spotted waiting on the steps outside.

Other witnesses remember seeing at least two men appear from a

white car brandishing guns as the shooting began. There was mounting criticism over how long it took Egyptian security teams to reach the area and for rescuers to help the seriously wounded. Many of the injured say they lay cowering in fear for an hour or more.

The first victims, tour groups from Germany, Japan and Switzerland, were milling around in the courtyard when two men were seen pulling weapons from under their jackets. Badawy Ahmed Salem, 33, a taxi driver, said the gunmen sprayed automatic fire and shout-

ing slogans. Some victims were made to kneel before they were shot, he said. "They were pulling tourists like sheep on the floor and slaughtering them. We were up to our knees in blood."

As well as wearing the winter garb of the police, the terrorists had red bandanas on which was written: "We will fight until death."

In the first minutes, the gunmen deliberately targeted the few police officers on duty before concentrating their attention on the hundreds of innocent bystanders and street vendors. Witnesses told how the

killers walked between the fallen bodies, stabbing at them with knives and firing at those who were still alive. Among the first victims were a Japanese honeymoon couple, Eiichi and Tomomi Kishida, who were married ten days ago.

The attack continued unabated for 30 minutes, say survivors. Between 30 to 90 minutes later, depending on which witness account is to be believed, soldiers equipped with AK 47 rifles and grenade launchers arrived and began to fan out. Some of the

killers were believed to have escaped to nearby graveyard. Some were seen hijacking passing cars to escape.

One group commandeered a bus with three French tourists on board. The driver was too distraught to drive so one of the terrorists took the wheel. They were followed not only by soldiers but also by unarmed Egyptians incensed by what they had seen. The terrorists drove as far as the derelict Christian monastery of Dar Moharb where they abandoned the bus and set off on foot,

having killed the French tourists. Mrs Eman Abdelal, a local English teacher, whose husband is a guide at the temple, said: "The people from Luxor who followed them say that in the end the terrorists killed each other, with the last one killing himself."

"When they escaped into the mountains, one of the terrorists was shot by a soldier and fell down. One of the other terrorists then came back and shot him dead so that he would not be taken and say anything about them."

The people from the West Bank

here were very brave against the criminals. They followed them even though they had no weapons."

From beginning to end, the shoot-out is estimated to have lasted three hours. There was then another delay until rescue vehicles could reach the scene. Although authorities claim that six gunmen were killed, a number of witnesses put their total at 11. In a claim of responsibility, the al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) said that 15 members were in the ambush, whose initial aim was alleged to have been to take hostages.

Factional splits make security task harder

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE admission yesterday that the Luxor tourist massacre was the responsibility of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group) came as Egypt's most active Muslim extremist group is beginning to disintegrate.

The splits — both between factions inside Egypt and between the group's home-based fighters and exiled leaders — are seen by Western security experts as making the job of the authorities more difficult. On the day that 53 tourists were shot dead at the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, 300 miles away in a court outside Cairo, a leading member of the group was telling reporters that its offer of a ceasefire, first hinted at in July, still stood.

The original call was seen by some observers as recognition that the attempt to trans-

form Egyptian society by force had failed. But some Egyptian security officials saw it as a trick to try and lift the relentless security clamp-down, which has included torture and rough justice.

The feelers for peace put out by the jailed members of the group's leadership were rejected, not only by President Mubarak, but also by members still at large.

The group was originally founded in the late 1970s by radical Muslim theologians led by Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, whose freedom from jail in the United States was claimed by al-Gamaa as the motivation behind the Luxor ambush.

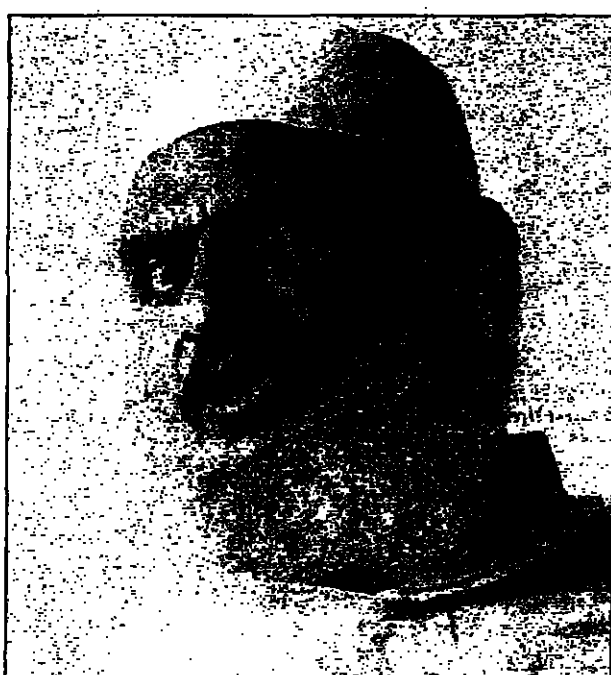
The blind Egyptian sheikh is in New York's Metropolitan Correctional Institute, serving a life sentence for "seditious conspiracy". He

has a burning hatred of the West and a self-appointed mission to "destroy" America.

Abdel-Rahman, along with nine other co-conspirators, was convicted in 1995 of planning to wage a war of urban terrorism against the United States; five bombs were intended to explode in and around New York on one day. Abdel-Rahman was also convicted of conspiring to assassinate President Mubarak in the United States in 1993.

In 1993, six people were killed in the bombing of the World Trade Centre, in New York. Although the sheikh himself was not charged in that case, four of the men convicted of the bombing professed to be followers of Abdel-Rahman.

Many original members of al-Gamaa group are among



Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the group's leader

the 15,000 supporters and sympathisers now behind bars in Egypt or the more than 50 executed.

At the outset of its campaign in 1992, the group was much more disciplined than

today. Those still at large are particularly ruthless. Rural members of the security forces, tourists and Egypt's Coptic Christians have become the main targets of the terrorists.

Commons pledges to resist terrorism

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MINISTERS and MPs, speaking in the House of Commons, expressed their sympathies and condolences to the families bereaved by the Luxor massacre.

Doug Henderson, the Foreign Office Minister, said the Government would work with the Egyptian authorities to do everything it could to help to minimise risks for travellers and make "every effort" in the international fight against terrorism.

He said: "On behalf of the Government and, I am sure, on behalf of all members of this House, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the families bereaved by this atrocity and to those injured."

He said the Prime Minister, who spoke to President Mubarak on Monday afternoon, had "expressed his condolences and our support in

the fight against terrorism".

Crispin Blunt, Tory MP for Reigate and special adviser to Malcolm Rifkind, the former Defence Secretary, urged the Government to do everything it could to protect the Egyptian tourist industry. He said the Government should give out enough information so that travellers could understand the risks of terrorism. But he added: "Don't encourage a wholly unnecessary panic which is what seems to have happened."

Mr Henderson said: "We have a responsibility to provide advice to British citizens and British tourists on the dangers they may face when they travel. Our assessment is that there are serious dangers in Egypt and have been for some time."

Michael Howard, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said he

wished to associate the Opposition with the sympathy the minister expressed "to the families of the victims of this brutal attack and also to the sympathy extended to 'the Government of Egypt'."

Christine McCafferty, the Labour MP for Calder Valley, whose constituents included the three dead members of the Turner family, said: "I welcome the minister's message of condolence for the family and would like to be associated with them. I also welcome your unequivocal condemnation of terrorism."

Michael Fallon, the Tory MP for Sevenoaks who represented two other Britons who died, George and Ivy Wigham, spoke of "the widespread shock and grief in Swanley that a dream holiday for two pensioners should have ended in murder."

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DAVID BADDIEL

OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

Tourists advised to stay away

BY MICHAEL BENVIN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Egyptian Minister of Tourism called at the Foreign Office yesterday for talks with Baroness Symons. Mamdouh el-Beigui expressed his Government's sorrow and condolences and discussed Egypt's readiness to help the thousands of tourists seeking a swift return home.

His visit was proposed before the Luxor massacre. Musa al-Amr, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, also telephoned Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to convey a message of sympathy to the victims' relatives.

The Foreign Office said that its emergency response team

had received around 1,000 calls by mid-morning to the lines set up to help those seeking information or concerned about relatives.

The Foreign Office issued revised travel advice detailing the "major incident" near Luxor and saying that this suggested the threat to tourists visiting Upper Egypt had increased. British visitors were advised to exercise "great caution" when visiting the area of the Nile valley south of, and including, Minya province. It added: "They are strongly advised to avoid the Luxor area until further notice." Foreign Office officials

said they had rushed out the notice as soon as the details of the massacre became clear.

It was sent to all travel agents and tour organisers who normally request guidance on the level of risk in any of the main tourist destinations. Travel advice is based on information sent to London by British embassies abroad.

It is drawn up in consultation with consuls, who have to deal with any emergencies, and includes a political assessment of any instability or terrorist threat.

Not all tourist destinations are covered, and advice is issued only if the situation

appears unstable. The Foreign Office said it was impossible to predict any outbreak of violence, and a blanket warning to keep away was often resented by countries whose economies depend largely on tourism.

The Foreign Office refuses to take responsibility for individual visits and therefore will not guarantee anyone's safety, preferring to outline the risks and leave decisions to travellers. However, most advice echoes the statement issued on Egypt yesterday: "Visitors to all other parts of Egypt, including Cairo, the Red Sea and Sinai, are advised to be vigilant and to respect any advice from the local security authorities."

MATTHEW PARRIS IS ON PAGE 15

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Adrift brings 2
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Golfers mourn



British tourists angry at leaving Luxor

Holiday companies accused of panicking

BRITISH holidaymakers were angry yesterday that they were being flown out of Luxor after the terrorist massacre. They said that the Foreign Office and tour companies had overreacted.

Convoys of coaches took visitors to Luxor airport as tour operators sent charter flights to evacuate the area. The bus came in their scores from such companies as Thomson, Kuoni and Golden Joy Holidays. Most big tour firms decided to pull out, only some of the small independent travel groups giving their clients the chance to stay on.

One group of tourists had arrived only last night for a two-week tour of the region and were going back to London within 12 hours. Jenny Reynolds, from Birmingham, was with her 85-year-old mother, Eileen Reynolds. "It's just pure panic," Dr Reynolds said. "We were asked at Heathrow last night if we wanted to go and we all said yes."

Geoff Gregg of Luton, Bedfordshire, said: "I'm absolutely furious with the Foreign Office. What message will we be sending to the terrorists if the British pull out?"

Gemma and Nick Wells, from Crowborough, East Sussex, said they had travelled around the world and did not want to return home. Mr Wells said: "As soon as the situation clears, I'll be the first to come back."

Tourists had been advised to remain inside their hotels and boats after the attack at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. But a handful were mingling with local Egyptians outside the Luxor city council office. Many tourists spoke of their respect for the Egyptian people, saying that they had done much to ease the situation.

Troops lined the El Nil Corniche and were positioned outside hotels, on rooftops, on terraces and alongside the cruisers that lined the east bank of the Nile. It soon became clear that they were there not to protect visitors but for the arrival of President Mubarak's cavalcade, which roared down the street in the



Many Britons, unhappy at their forced repatriation, were determined to return, reports David Hannah

haze and dust of the late morning. As the President left Luxor after a meeting with bazaar traders, the troops and security forces left too, leaving the streets to return to a more normal situation and more tourists to emerge from their hotels.

In the ancient temples on the east bank of the river and the Great Valley of the Kings on the west bank, only a few white-headed tourists were seen among the giant ancient pillars. Their main source of information had come only from telephone calls home. Steven Coulson, 45, from Pon-

We're furious with the Foreign Office. What message will we send to terrorists if we pull out?

tefract, who is studying Egyptology at Manchester University, was with ten other Britons in the town and did not plan to leave. He said: "The shooting has shaken everyone up. People don't know whether to stay or go. British people are hoping to be moved out, but independent travellers like me don't know what to do. Luxor is like a ghost town. Everyone is terrified and wants to get out. I won't be leaving, though."

"The Egyptian people are very angry and embarrassed about what has happened. They feel the attack was against them as well as the tourists." One Egyptian said that many of the local people wanted to burn the bodies of the gunmen.

girlfriend and I have only just arrived and are insisting on staying put. We take the view that this was a one-off incident. It is not as if there is a war on here and that we could be next."

Lesley Anderson, a nurse from Hedon, East Yorkshire, was on holiday with her mother, Jean Brownlee, and were upset with tour operators for cutting their holiday short by a day. She said: "It is pandemonium. The hotel foyers are full of people trying to check out. We don't feel at any risk, but we are being made to go home, and we think that is wrong."

But two young British women spoke of their fear at having to stay another night before they could catch a flight home. "We're trapped and terrified," said Jane Bussey, 23, from Bishop Auckland in Co Durham.

"We're staying in a £2-a-night pension down a little back street in the centre of town. It's not guarded and the people running it don't seem to realise how serious the situation is. We've been desperate to get out since we heard of the massacre."

During the day she and Tracy Jackson stay in the lobby of a well-guarded three-star hotel, but they do not have enough money to sleep there.

Ms Bussey, an accounts clerk, said: "Luxor is like a city under siege. The police have got helicopters flying overhead, the police are patrolling the river and there are police cars everywhere, with roadblocks."

As night fell, the streets were quiet, the horse-and-trap drivers lined up without custom, the glittering bazaar stalls were becoming deserted. Most of the luxury cruisers remained tied up, their doors locked. Only a few white-sailed fishing boats plied their way from shore to shore.



Rosemarie Dousse recovering in hospital in Cairo yesterday. She smeared herself with blood and played dead

Survivor tells of methodical killing

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

A SURVIVOR of the massacre told yesterday how the gunmen had methodically finished off their victims. Rosemarie Dousse said: "They shot everyone in the arms and legs. Then they killed everyone who was alive with a shot to the head."

Mrs Dousse, a Swiss, said that she had survived only because she was covered by the bodies of two other tourists killed instantly when her group was first fired upon. She was shot in the arms and legs, but soaked her headscarf

in blood and smeared herself with it, then pretended she was dead when they returned. "They kept on coming back, the terrorists, they were dancing, singing: 'Allah, Allah.'"

She added: "They took all the young women, the girls, and disappeared with them. I do not know where they went with the women, but they hurt them, we could hear screams of pain."

An Egyptian driver, Hagag al-Nahas, said that he had dropped off a busload of tourists at the temple when the gunmen charged aboard. "There were six of them, five in police uniforms and another wearing jeans, who came aboard and

told me to drive them away from the temple. So I drove them round and round. They had the walkie-talkies of the policemen they had killed, so they could hear everything that was going on."

Egyptians reacted with fury to the massacre. "They should take a terrorist in a public square and cut him up into tiny pieces to set an example," said Azza Abdel-Naby, a 27-year-old Cairo nurse.

In Luxor, villagers spat on the bodies of the six gunmen as they were being carried to waiting ambulances. "Luxor lives on tourism. If that goes, there is nothing," said Magdi Wassef, a 32-year-old hotel waiter.

Nurse on holiday helped out at hospital

By DANIEL MCGRORY

A BRITISH nurse holidaying in Luxor was among those who helped to cope with the scores of dead and dying as they were brought to the city's general hospital.

For ten hours Sue Kelly worked in the overflowing emergency ward treating the wounds of tourists who described to her how they had been stabbed and shot.

"There was such confusion that the dead bodies were just left next to the injured who were crying out for help," she said. "All around there were friends and family pushing between us, all trying to find their loved ones. It was so cruel and harrowing to watch. You felt helpless in the face of such suffering."

Mrs Kelly, a divorcee from Haywards Heath in Sussex and a regular visitor to Luxor, was asked to go to the hospital by the manager of her hotel. She said: "It was obvious that many had been shot at close range, and others had been stabbed. They told me how the terrorists had run among them, shouting and slashing at them with knives. One man almost had his head severed. So many of those being brought in were beyond help."

She saw victims who had their throats cut. Others had their stomachs cleaved open by stab wounds. "It looked as if they had been executed rather than caught up in some random attack. The floors were running in blood."



Sue Kelly: "It was so cruel and harrowing"

Airlift brings 2,000 home as travel firms count the cost

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PAUL WHITTAKER

ELEVEN empty charter aircraft flew to Egypt yesterday to bring home an estimated 2,000 British holidaymakers, including nearly 1,300 from the city of Luxor.

Every available seat on scheduled and pre-arranged charter flights was booked to ensure that no-one was forced to remain in Egypt against their wishes. Senior travel industry figures said it was the largest single peace-time evacuation.

The first of the relieved tourists arrived at Heathrow airport yesterday evening to be reunited with relatives who had waited for 24 hours for confirmation of their safety. More than 100 people on an over-filled holiday were flown

home by Egypt Air after being forced to cut short their stay. Nessie Brisbane, 72, from Falkirk, said: "We were on our way in a tour bus to the Valley of the Queens. We were told to stay where we were until a police escort came. We were whisked away to our hotel and told we had to leave Luxor as soon as possible."

The Cosmos holiday company said it was bringing all its customers in the area back to Britain, with sister company Monarch having arranged two flights out of Luxor. Air Tours said it was arranging to fly home its 351 holidaymakers in the Luxor area. It would fly about 600 holidaymakers to Manchester and Gatwick today — 351

Air Tours clients, plus those of Golden Joy, Cosmos, First Choice and Aztec. Most tour operators have promised full refunds for holidays cut short.

Several companies have cancelled flights to Egypt later in the week and some operators have cancelled holidays in Egypt for the rest of the year at the busiest time.

Thomson, Britain's biggest holiday company, said it was cancelling its three Egypt-bound flights yesterday. A spokesman said: "All those in Egypt at present are being given the option of coming home early."

Many of the thousands of tourists forced to cut short their holidays had booked with small, up-market opera-

tors who are increasingly dependent on the recent growth in the Middle East market. Improved travel links and the growth in five-star accommodation has introduced Egypt and neighbouring countries to a new market of luxury holidays costing up to £2,500 per person.

Among the most experienced operator specialising in Egypt is Bales Tours, a Surrey firm that was among the first to focus on the Middle East in 1962. Molly Bales, the firm's managing director, said: "We are used to problems arising in Egypt but this one will have a bigger impact. This one is more terrible and it will make people think again about Egypt for some time."

Golfers mourn their friends

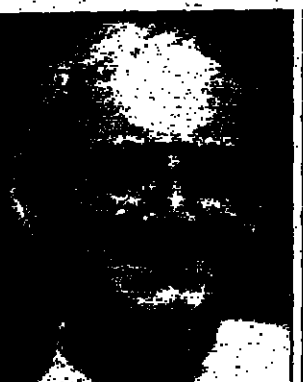
By PETER FOSTER
AND DANIEL MCGRORY

THE veterans' section of Lullington Golf Club in Kent is in mourning over the death of a popular member and his wife in the Luxor massacre.

Last Thursday two of their oldest members set off with their wives for a winter holiday in Egypt. David Middleton and his wife Sheila survived the attack by Islamic terrorists. Their close friends George and Ivy Wigham lost their lives.

Yesterday, Brian Vallance, the secretary of Lullington Golf Club, said the two men had partnered each other in competitions for nearly 20 years. "They played together in the local league and came up to the club three or four times a week together. They were both charming people and George will be sorely missed," he said.

The week before leaving for Egypt the veterans group discussed the trip over coffee and sandwiches which they always shared after golf. "George was fatalistic about the dangers," Alan Philpott, the veterans' treasurer, said. "If you're going to be killed,



George and Ivy Wigham: their son Paul told them that they should take bullet-proof vests to Egypt



you're going to be killed, was what George always used to say. David was much more apprehensive and decided to take all the necessary precautions."

Paul Wigham tried to persuade his parents against their plans to sail down the Nile for their dream holiday because of the dangers.

After hearing how gunmen callously executed a tour group they found at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, he was haunted by the thought they too had been shot at point-blank range. "I just get the same picture

of my mother and father being forced to kneel down while someone machine-gunned them to death. I am a believer in non-violence. I think it is quite appalling they should treat innocent people in this way, quite appalling."

The 45-year-old computer consultant told how his parents were just two days into a holiday that was to be a celebration of his mother finishing her Open University degree. They were undaunted by reports of terrorist attacks and were determined to enjoy their cruise with the Middletons.

Friends and family yesterday described George, 69, and Ivy, 71, from Swanley in Kent, as "a devoted couple who lived for each other, their children and their two grandchildren."

Mr Wigham said: "For all their lives they have been careful. My mother, in particular, did not like doing risky things and it seemed to me they should have cancelled. But I could not talk them out of it."

"I actually said 'You should take some bullet-proof vests along with you'. I was terribly worried. I felt after the last incident that they should have made more of an effort to cancel."

"But my father was getting on a bit. He was 69 and they wanted to see the tombs before they died. I feel very sad. They were such wonderful parents, giving, gentle people."

Mr Wigham said that Foreign Office diplomats had been of little help and it was only when he telephoned a number in Egypt that he was told his parents were among the victims.

Their daughter, Angela, and her two young daughters were last night said to be distraught.

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The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

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to be shot by a marksman.

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A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October 1997 shows that 73% of people support the Bill. We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

The 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in

their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House and vote to end this cruel 'sport' once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons, or call the RSPCA on 01403 223284 (9-5 weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

And if you need further motivation, look again at the stag in the picture.

Look him in the eye.

And tell him you can't be bothered.



Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.



Crowning moment for the royal survivors

THE SO MANY BROTHERS ARE NO LONGER IN THE PINK.

FINANCIAL APPOINTMENTS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Crowning moment for the royal survivors

Alan Hamilton surveys a reunion of monarchs for the Queen's anniversary

HEREDITARY monarchy may not grip the popular imagination as it once did, but there will be as many crowned heads at the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden-wedding anniversary tomorrow as there were at their marriage service.

Some of them, admittedly, are now more deposed than regnant. In 50 years, some monarchs have lost their thrones, some have regained them and some still wait for the telephone to ring.

The guest list for the thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey includes eight crowned heads and their heirs, which Buckingham Palace officials believe is an unprecedented gathering, at least since the days when Victoria's relations used to assemble at her feet at Balmoral.

Stable thrones will be represented at the Abbey, including the present hereditary heads of state of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg, Belgium and The Netherlands. Their parents and grandparents were wedding guests half a century ago.

There are two newcomers, the royal families of Spain and Jordan, absent from the original feast. Spain was still in its Franco period, with the throne in abeyance, and Jordan was then still Transjordan, newly created out of the British Palestine mandate with King Abdullah as its new head of state. King Juan Carlos will attend tomorrow with most of his immediate family. King Hussein is otherwise engaged, but is sending numerous children.

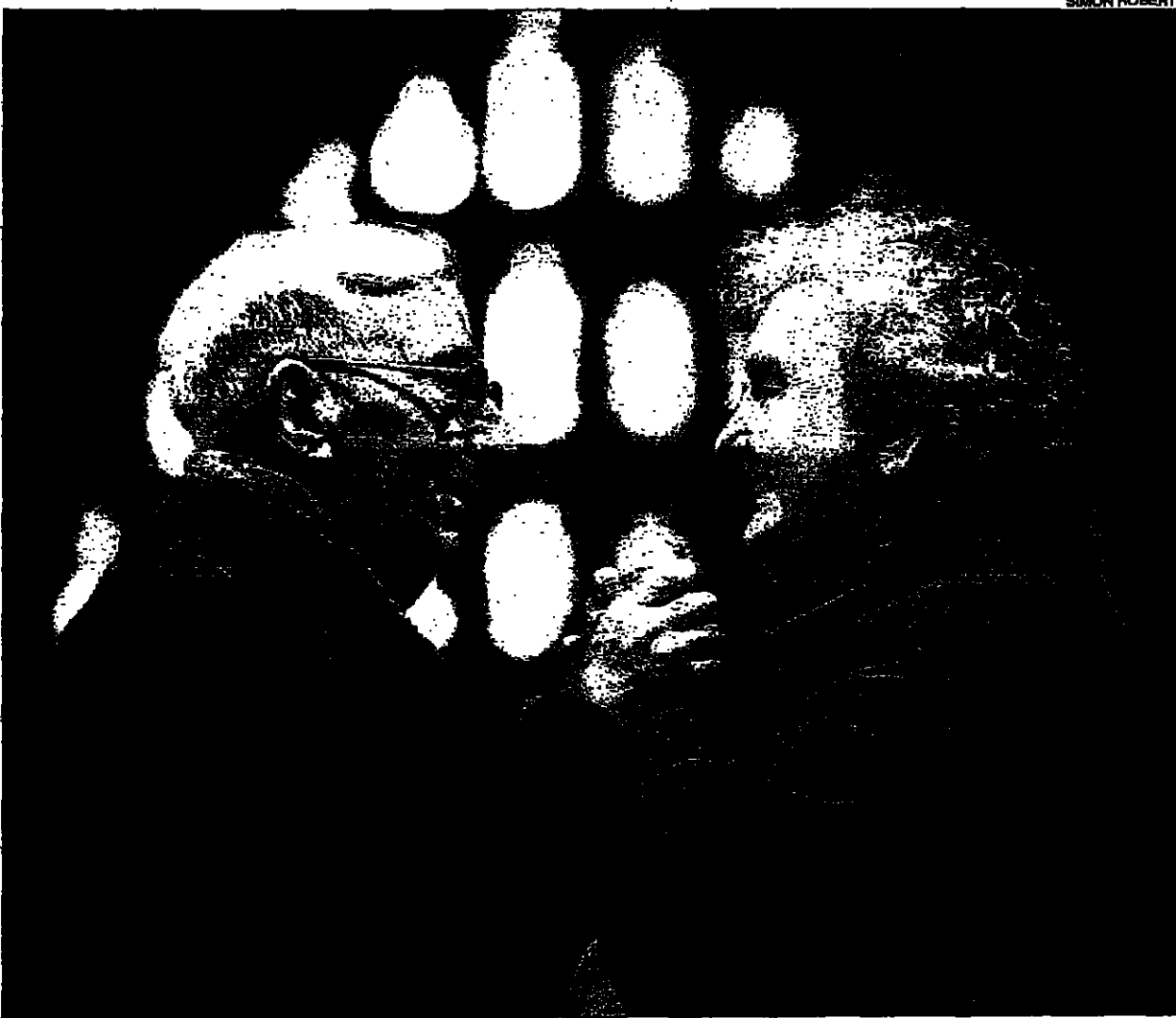
One monarch who regretted attending the 1947 wedding was King Michael of Romania. During his absence, Communists overthrew him, and on his return forced him to

leave at gunpoint. The king, with his wife and heir, are now based in Switzerland, and will be at tomorrow's service, as will King Simeon of Bulgaria and his immediate family. The Bulgarians were absent from the 1947 wedding, and have still not reclaimed their throne.

Given the Duke of Edinburgh's antecedents, neither wedding nor anniversary would be complete without the Greeks. They were there in force in 1947 and will be so again tomorrow, led by King Constantine, the last Greek monarch, who now lives in London.

One of the most hopeless thrones since the end of the Second World War has been that of Yugoslavia. That unhappy country's royal family were not at the 1947 wedding, despite having spent the war exiled in London. Crown Prince Alexander, current claimant to the throne of a nation which in reality no longer exists, and himself a long-time London resident, will be among the guests.

Others at the service will include most members of the British royal family, a large contingent of the Duke of Edinburgh's Greek and German relations, members of the Mountbatten family, staff of the Royal Household, and many of the Queen and Duke's personal friends.



One of the 850 couples at Manchester Cathedral yesterday. Music created for the Queen's wedding was played

Golden wedding couples renew vows at service

By Russell Jenkins

MORE than 850 couples who are celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries this year renewed their marriage vows at a special service at Manchester Cathedral yesterday.

The service, organised by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, was timed to coincide with the week that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrate their own anniversary. All the couples attending took part in the ballot to attend the golden wedding garden party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Colonel John Timmins, the Lord Lieutenant, said: "Many of those who married in those austere days of 1947 could not have many trimmings which people associate with weddings today. They were usually very simple with little ceremony. We worked with the cathedral to make this service evoke memories and be as much like a wedding day as it can be."

Among the invited guests were Diane McNiece, 30, and

Mark Kain, 26, whose wedding day in the cathedral was disrupted by the IRA bomb in the city last summer. The couple, who were eventually married on June 14, renewed their vows yesterday. Mrs Kane said: "We had hoped to walk through the west door [last year] but it was certainly disappointing to have to change our plans. This is a lovely idea, getting together with golden wedding couples. It makes you realise others have suffered too."

The Lord Lieutenant and his ushers wore morning dress at the service. The music, created for the Queen's wedding, was played by the Band of the King's Division Normandy. Each of the couples received a piece of wedding cake and souvenir orders of service. There was also a message of good wishes recorded by the Queen.

Donald and Constance Ridgway, of Stockport, were among those recalling their wedding day. He said: "It is a dream come true for both of us to renew our vows here."

20 children arrested after rampage on bus

By Russell Jenkins

POLICE arrested 20 schoolchildren after they went on the rampage on a double-decker bus on their way home from school in Doncaster.

The youngsters, aged 11 to 12, screamed, shouted and spat as they ran riot through the bus, repeatedly opening the emergency door and rocking the vehicle from side to side.

Officers, called to the scene, took the children to Doncaster

police station, where they were released without charge. Police are talking to teachers about further action. Two of the pupils, from Hall Cross Lower School, in Doncaster, have been excluded and a further four or five face similar punishment.

After complaints from Mainline, the bus company, the local education authority has written to parents warning them that it is "simply not willing to tolerate such behaviour".

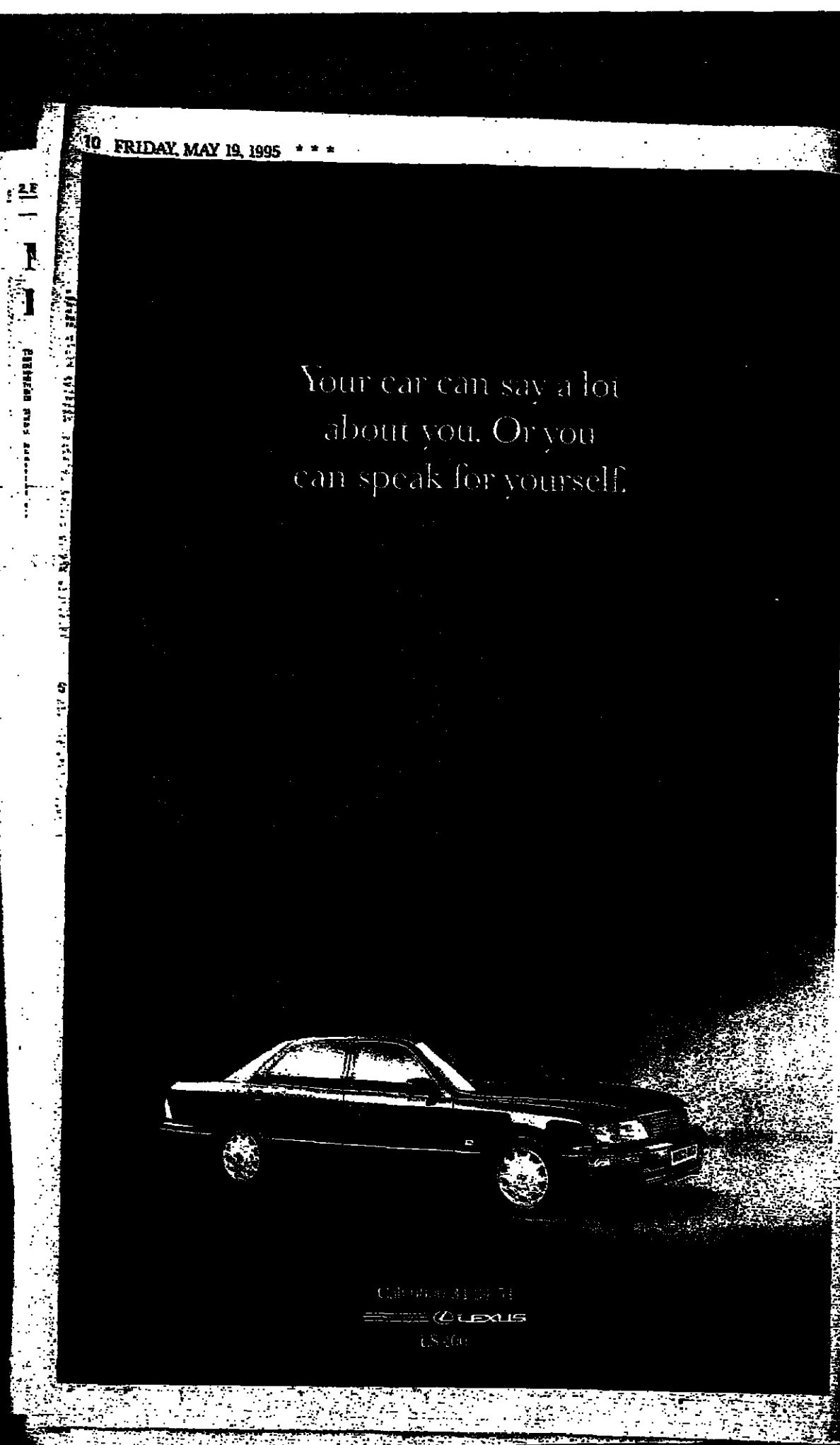
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Accused officer 'let the side down' over affair

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

AN RAF officer became the "lap dog" of his Serbian interpreter after she manipulated him with sexual favours during his tour of duty as a military observer in Bosnia, a court was told yesterday.

Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, 46, who is accused of murdering his wife in Britain after being captivated by a fascination for his 21-year-old mistress, was said to have obeyed her every whim. During his relationship with Dijana Dudokovic in the northern sector of the war zone in 1995, she undermined the United Nations military operation, and Squadron Leader Tucker "let the side down as a British officer", it was alleged. The passionate relationship was described by Lieutenant Tim Stear, of the Royal Marines, who served for a month with Squadron Leader Tucker.

Using military vehicles he would take her shopping when he should have been on patrol, said Lieutenant Stear. "The military operations were based around her whim. It appeared that, whilst I was there, he was running around after her, fetching and carry-

ing beer and food at parties."

On the second day of Squadron Leader Tucker's trial for the murder of his wife, Carol, 52, in a car crash he is accused of faking, the jury was told that Miss Dudokovic had been prepared to use her attractiveness on "whoever was in charge". Lieutenant Stear told Norwich Crown Court that the relationship had interfered with the accused's military duties. He said that he had seen Squadron Leader Tucker every day for a month at headquarters, where two interpreters were assigned to them. Because of Miss Dudokovic's behaviour, the other interpreter was given an unfair burden.

Lieutenant Stear claimed that Miss Dudokovic had been manipulative and "using sex to do so. That is her best asset." He added: "In my opinion, as a British officer he was letting the side down in terms of professionalism."

Lieutenant Stear told the court that Jens Solvang, the Norwegian former operations manager in the sector, had criticised Squadron Leader Tucker's behaviour. In subse-



Tucker: he denies murdering his wife

quent reports from Sector North to the UN Protection Force in Zagreb, however, all officers were described as "excellent". But Lieutenant Stear said that he did not agree with the reports.

Cross-examined by David Cocks, QC, for the defence, the lieutenant was asked: "Are you saying he [Tucker] neglected his patrolling duties because he was doing favours for Dijana?" Lieutenant Stear replied: "That's what I am saying sir, yes."

"What you are telling this jury is that he [Tucker] was idle, incompetent and did not

pay any attention to his duties." Lieutenant Stear replied: "That's very strong language, but it is not far from the truth, sir."

Lieutenant Stear denied Mr Cocks's suggestion that he had made a pass at Miss Dudokovic at a party. Mr Cocks then put it to him that he could not remember much of the party because he had passed out. The jury were then shown pictures of a man collapsed at the bottom of some stairs. Lieutenant Stear was asked if it was him. "Yes, sir, that's me passed out at the bottom of the stairs," he replied.

Earlier the jury was taken to the scene of the car crash near Icklingham, Suffolk. Squadron Leader Tucker is accused of staging the crash near the home he shared with his wife and two children at Honington after returning from his six-month tour of Bosnia in 1995. The jury has been told that the officer, who denies murder, deliberately crashed his car into the shallow river.

His wife was found at the side of the car, drowned, but it is alleged, only after her husband had asphyxiated her. The trial continues.



Dijana Dudokovic with her husband in Zurich, where they now live, last night

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug czar's deputy took cannabis

The deputy to the new "drug czar" was appointed to the £45,000 post after admitting to three Cabinet ministers that he had smoked cannabis while he was a student.

Michael Trace, 36, disclosed that he had "experimented" with the drug at Bristol Polytechnic. His drug-taking was known to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and Ann Taylor, Leader of the House.

Keith Hellawell, the former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire who is to be the "drug czar", formally known as the Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator, from January, told the ministers he had never taken illegal drugs.

Clegg appeal

Lee Clegg, the paratrooper fighting his conviction for murdering an 18-year-old Belfast joyrider, will learn today whether the Court of Appeal will admit new evidence that he hopes will clear his name. A panel of three judges will rule on the admissibility of ballistics tests ordered by his defence team.

Fears for trawler

An RAF Nimrod plane and a helicopter searching for the 70ft trawler *Margaretha Maria*, with four crew from Newlyn, Cornwall, spotted debris in the sea near her last reported position. The area has been hit by gales. The search for the vessel, which has been out of radio contact for a week, continues today.

Youngest sex pest

A 13-year-old boy has become the youngest person on the new national register of sex offenders. He was put on the list after admitting six indecent assaults on girls at his school in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, over more than 18 months. He was also placed under supervision for two years.

Rodgers elected

Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, 69, one of the "Gang of Four" of Labour Shadow ministers who defected to form the Social Democratic Party in 1981, has been elected leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords. He will succeed Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, another founder of the SDP, in the new year.

£14m tagging bill

A national scheme of electronic tagging would cost £13.9 million in its first year, according to a Home Office study. It estimated that about 8,000 tagging orders would be imposed annually by the courts. The cost of a curfew order linked to a tag is £1,750, compared with £2,200 for a probation order.

The drunk driver who trapped himself

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

POLICE had no trouble catching a drunk driver after he left a public car park. Keith Hammond, a former chauffeur, mistook a pedestrian access for the exit and found himself trapped, with the doors of his Ford Fiesta jammed against the sides of the narrow walkway. Then he fell asleep.

The car was so firmly wedged that a tow truck was needed to free it. Yesterday magistrates at Tynes, Devon, were told that Hammond, 56, had an alcohol reading 5½ times the legal limit, one of the highest on record.

Hammond, of Chillington, Devon, who had no previous convictions, admitted drink-driving in the incident at Torcross. He was banned from driving while pre-sentence reports are prepared.

Madeleine Jackson, for the prosecution, said: "An officer found Hammond slumped forward with his head on his chest. The handbrake was off and the car was in first gear." John Hansell, for the defence, said: "Hammond is a man of impeccable character. He drove for the chairman of a large British company."

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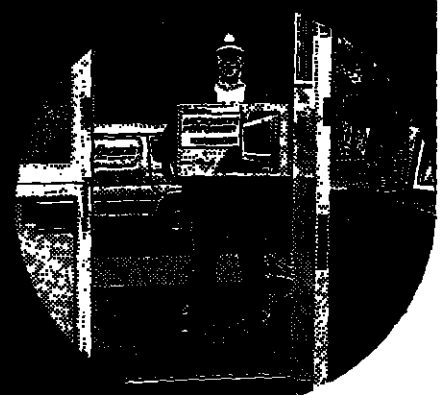
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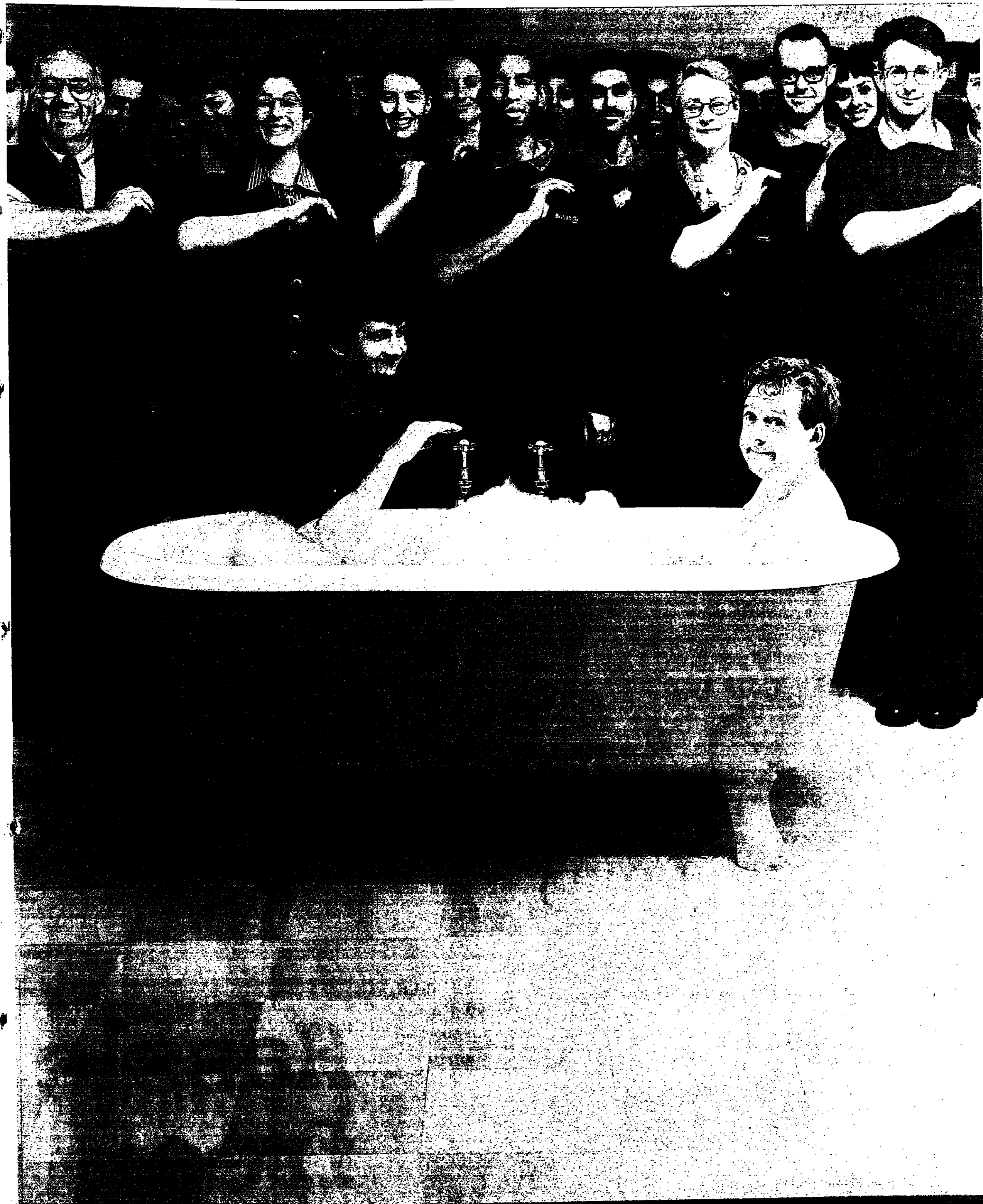
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Hospital waiting lists are growing by 1,000 a week

HOSPITAL waiting lists in England are now growing by more than 1,000 patients a week, forcing the Government to water down its election promise to cut them quickly by 100,000.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, unable to prise any more money from the Treasury to tackle the problem, yesterday scraped together £5 million from savings on NHS red tape to set up new bureaucratic units to oversee greater efficiency by health authorities. The units include an "action team" to find and co-ordinate good practice, plus eight regional task forces who will oversee management. If the advice is not followed they will be able to send in a hit squad to sort out the problems.

At the best, Mr Dobson hopes that the new system will be able to hold the line on waiting lists this winter as well as ensure that, by March, nobody has to wait longer than 18 months for treatment. Labour was elected promising to cut the waiting list by 100,000, but figures released yesterday show that, between May and the end of September, it grew by more than 150,000 to 1,207,500 — the highest ever figure.

The number waiting more than one year increased by 11,000, or 24 per cent, to 57,700. Among those are 818 who have been waiting for more than 18 months — which the Patient's Charter states should be the absolute maximum time that anybody should have to spend without being treated.

In June of last year only nine people had been waiting more than 18 months, Mr

The Government is finding it hard to make good its election pledges, says Ian Murray

Dobson said it was unacceptable that anyone had to wait that long. Blaming the growth of the waiting list on Conservative policies, he said it would probably not be until towards the end of the present Parliament in 2002 that Labour would be able to honour its election promise.

"The growing waiting lists are like a superbug," he said. "It will take a long time to slow them down, longer to stop them and even longer to turn them round. But turn them round we will."

"We have provided an extra £300 million this year to help to restrain a growth in the list during the winter and from then on we will be setting

Dobson said cutting lists would take time

milestones to reduce the size of it gradually."

The man given the task of cutting waiting lists is Stephen Day, chairman of the new Waiting List Action Team, who as regional director in the West Midlands has succeeded in cutting the waiting list by 31,000 over two years.

Although more than half the 120 health authorities in England expect to enter the next financial year in debt, Mr Dobson made it clear that he did not expect to get any extra money to bail them out.

"The answer cannot just be loads of cash," he said. "There are huge differences between hospitals and regions serving similar populations. Organisation and good management to target resources must play their part."

Health authorities are wasting money and effort duplicating work on expensive state-of-the-art specialised services, according to a report by the Audit Commission published today.

Two neighbouring authorities often carry out assessments of the same treatment, resulting in patients in one post code area receiving a new treatment which is denied to patients with an identical condition in another area.

Calling for a centralised body to act as a clearing house giving guidance on the cost effectiveness of new treatments, the public spending watchdog claims this would pay for itself in saving money from the £1.4 billion spent by the NHS each year on rare treatments such as bone marrow transplants, neurosurgery and cochlear implants.

Leading article, page 23



Dr Ian Smail of Durham University with one of the radio messages of distant stars taken with Edinburgh Royal Observatory's Scuba

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITISH astronomers have given the name Le Blob to a newly discovered galaxy 10 million light years from Earth.

The unconventional title celebrates the involvement of two French scientists in the discovery, and the splash of light it made in the first pictures taken with special equipment devised by the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh.

The discovery of Le Blob, one of several galaxies found at an observatory in Hawaii using a sensitive microwave detector called Scuba, happened almost by default. A team of three British scientists was carrying out research with the James Clerk Maxwell radio telescope on top of the dormant Mauna Kea volcano.

British scientists find galaxy called Le Blob

13,000ft above sea level, when their equipment failed. So they called it Scuba, the Submillimetre Common User Bolometer Array, which took 50 years to build at the Edinburgh Observatory and had not been used before.

The brightly burning stars of the galaxy were shrouded from view in clouds of galactic dust. The dust absorbs the starlight and it can be picked up only as microwaves. Scuba was able to detect the microwaves as they penetrated the interstellar dust

cloud, travelling at about one billion kilometres per hour.

One of the team, Dr Ian Smail, 31, of Durham University, said: "We were the first people to be lucky enough to use the Scuba microwave detector."

"It allowed us to detect the heat from the dust in these galaxies and take a picture. Even the most powerful telescopes had been unable to detect them in the past. It looked like a big blob, and we had two Frenchmen working alongside us, hence the

name. We have looked into a part of the spectrum that has never been viewed before. It has allowed us to see, in a certain amount of detail, galaxies in their infancy.

"It will allow scientists a new insight into the way the galaxies are formed and help in establishing the date of creation of the universe. One of the things we are interested in is the time it took for the galaxies to form, whether it was in a sudden violent episode or over a period of a few billion years."

In one small section of the night sky the team — which also included Andrew Blain, of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, and Rob Ivison, from the University of Edinburgh — were able to identify a cluster of galaxies, each one estimated at 13 billion years old.

Parents win right to claim CJD damages

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS of children who died from a fatal brain disease after being treated with growth hormone taken from human corpses won an appeal yesterday against being excluded from government compensation. The decision means that six families whose children developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) after being given the hormone to combat dwarfism will now be eligible to seek damages.

Between 1959 and 1985 some 2,000 children were enabled to attain normal stature through implants of growth hormone taken from the pituitary

glands of almost a million corpses. A small number of these children — 26 to date — developed CJD. It has been established that they were inadvertently given growth hormone from the bodies of people who had died of CJD and were infected by this route.

The Court of Appeal overturned a High Court ruling that parents of affected children could claim compensation only if their hormone treatment began after July 1, 1977. Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Chadwick, said the six families barred from compensation should be entitled to seek damages because their children's treatment had "straddled" the cut-off date.

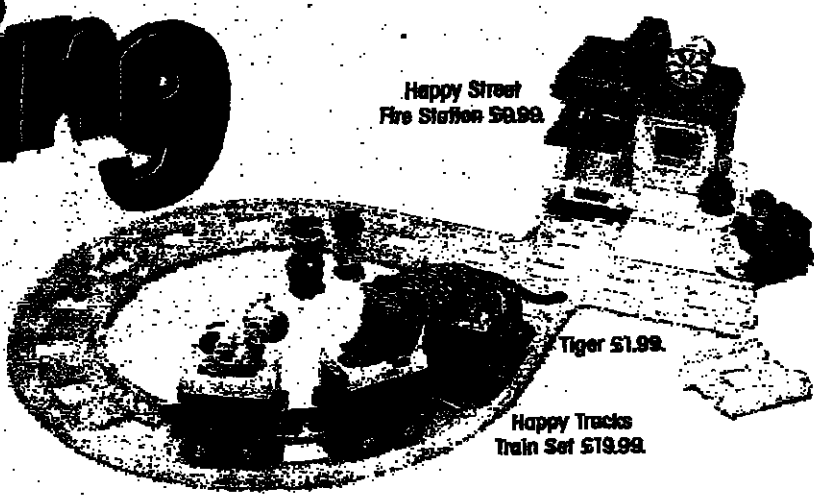
Fibre to cure bowel cancer

UP TO 10,000 cases a year of bowel cancer could be prevented if people ate enough fibre for breakfast, according to research published yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

Scientists have discovered that a natural substance called butyrate, derived from the fibre, can block the cancer-causing gene which grows tumours in the large bowel and kills 18,000 people a year.

Scientists at Bristol University have grown tumours in a laboratory while treating patients with products of fibre fermentation. They found that butyrate induced the tumours to self-destruct. "Interestingly, although able to induce colorectal tumour cells to commit suicide in the laboratory, butyrate is thought to be beneficial to the normal large bowel," said Chris Paraskeva, one of the researchers.

The Mr Tiger driving the train into the fire station Centre.



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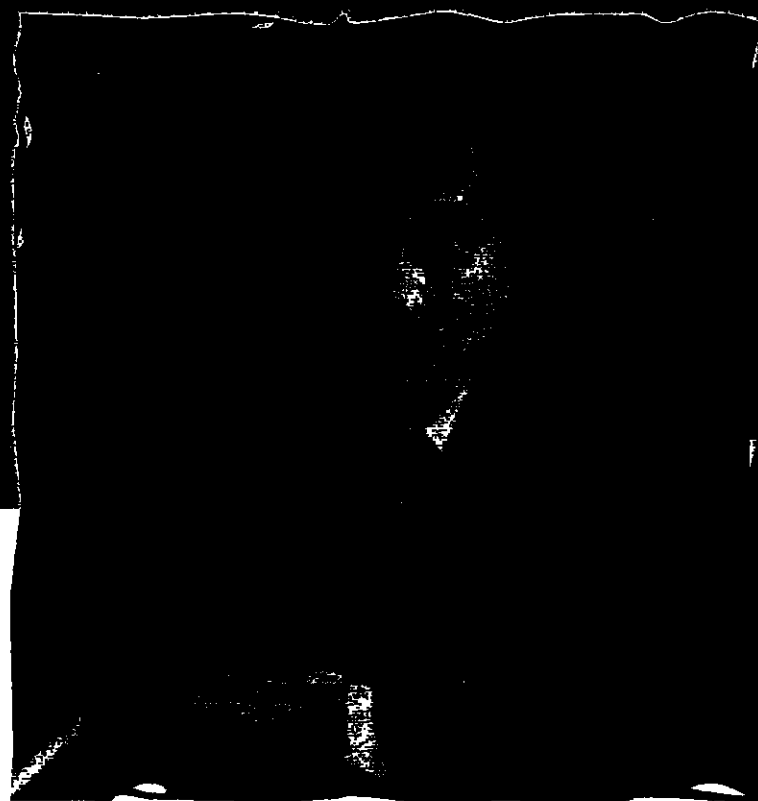
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Why should they be allowed to proceed on their own without regulatory approval? They have now said the new subsidiary would be losing money until the third year, although they have refused to say how much. Therefore we have a dominant airline willing to lose unlimited sums of money competing with substantially smaller airlines that could be driven out of business in the process. It seems to us like a textbook case of abuse of dominant position under article 86 of the EC Treaty. We expect the European commission to investigate this new cheap trick by BA and stop it before it has achieved its desired effect. Look at their track record: Laker, British Caledonian, Danair, Virgin, who is next? They were all either bought or nearly or actually driven out of business.

If you have a better idea of a name for the new "cheap trick" fax us on 01582 877 202, we'll forward all your thoughts to Bob Ayling!



Barbara Cassani
"Her Airline" Chief Executive



Robert Ayling
BA Chief Executive

We expect the European commission to investigate this new 'cheap trick' by BA and stop it before it has achieved its desired effect.



easyJet

Howard's line on crime backed by p

Howard's tough line on crime backed by public

THE public strongly supported the tough crime policies initiated by the last Home Secretary at the same time as developing profound suspicions about the legal system, the latest *British Social Attitudes* report has found.

The 14th annual report, published today, found public sympathy for suspected criminals falling and support for greater police powers, and stiffer sentencing rising sharply. Most Britons also said they could imagine circumstances in which people should break the law to follow their consciences.

The independent research group Social and Community Planning Research polled a random sample of 3,500

REPORTS BY
MARK HENDERSON

adults in England, Wales and Scotland for the survey in 1996. The conclusions suggest that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has little option other than to follow the tough line taken by his predecessor, Michael Howard, if he is to retain public support. More than 70 per cent of those polled believe people who break the law deserve stiffer sentences, and 86 per cent believe too many convicted criminals are let off lightly.

While more people still think it better to let a guilty man go free than to convict an innocent one, the gap is start-

ing to narrow considerably. More than 25 per cent would now prefer to see an innocent person in prison than a criminal let off.

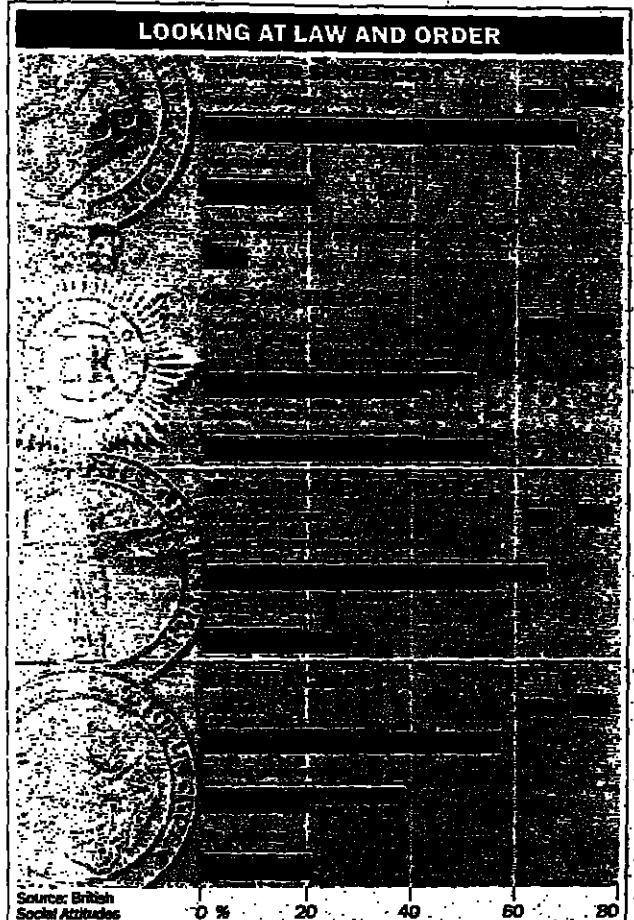
More than 33 per cent believe police should be allowed to detain a man with no criminal record if they have a tip he plans to commit a crime, with 66 per cent supporting arrest if the man has a criminal record.

These tough attitudes towards criminals are tempered by a growing tolerance for "crimes of conscience" and a creeping mistrust of the police and the criminal justice system. Fifty-five per cent think there are occasions when a person should follow their conscience if it means breaking the law, while 41 per cent urge obedience in all circumstances. The figures reverse those ten years ago.

The police are still thought to be doing a good job by 82 per cent, though that is down from a 1982 high of 92 per cent. Those saying the police do a very good job are down from 42 to 24 per cent.

The authors of the report's crime findings, Roger Tardif of the University of Surrey and Lizanne Dowds of Queen's University, Belfast, said the results stemmed from recorded crime figures which rose from 2.5 million to 5.6 million between 1979 and 1993. Ambivalence about the legal system and draconian attitudes towards punishment indicated "a frustrated reaction against trends in crime".

The survey found that the "couch potato culture" of television addicts who know everything about soap operas and little or nothing about politics and current events is a myth. It noted that television actually enhances viewers' knowledge and understanding, contributing greatly to the political process.



Michael Howard's attitude towards criminals finds broad support in the survey

Thatcher voters were big spenders at heart

THE Thatcher revolution won plenty of votes, but did little to capture the hearts and minds of the public.

The *British Social Attitudes* report found people's views remarkably resilient through the 1980s, despite the then Prime Minister's wish for Britons to embrace her laissez faire philosophy. The electorate was never fully won over to Tory policies on the labour market and housing, and remained attached to high public spending on health and education through 18 years of Tory rule. Under 35s, the so-called "Thatcher's Children", are now the age group least likely to vote Conservative, the report says.

Compiled on 1996 fieldwork, it suggests that the Tories lost power on May 1 because they had not converted Thatcher voters to Thatcherism; and it also holds a warning for Tony Blair. Alison Park, one of the editors, said it made depressing reading for both main parties. "It really shows the extent to which 18 years of Conservatism failed to change public attitudes despite an unprecedented opportunity," she said. "The message to Labour is that it is not easy to change the way people think and believe."

Under the Tories, the public consistently gave importance to public services such as health and education; dissatisfaction with the health service doubled from 25 per cent in 1983 to half those polled in 1996, with little approval for Tory market reforms.

Several central parts of the Thatcher programme failed to find real favour among the electorate. Moves towards a flexible labour market were linked to rising job insecurity, and home ownership appeared a mixed blessing after the high interest rates and property slump of the early 1990s.

Only on crime did the Tories touch a nerve, with the headline prison-centred policy of Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, reflecting public anxieties. But Mr Blair's approach, as Shadow Home Secretary, and that of his successor, Jack Straw — "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — neutralised the electoral impact.

Trust confirmed as the central issue for voters

Voters are a great deal more level-headed than politicians usually give them credit for. Every year since 1983, Social and Community Planning Research has produced *British Social Attitudes*, a survey of changing social and political values based on more than 3,500 interviews.

The public is detached from the political debate. The "Thatcher's children" generation, which came of age from the late 1970s, is not only less inclined to identify with the Tories than any older generation, but has resisted most of the main political and economic messages of the Conservative era.

They appear more materialistic than previous generations, placing more emphasis on pay than on other aspects of jobs. However, the authors conclude that their "findings hardly provide any ringing endorsement of the theory that the Thatcherite values of the Eighties had any profound influence on the generation which formed its political and social values during the period".

An alternative view is that growing up during the 1980s disenchanted this generation and made them more negative about the Tory approach as well as politically apathetic. The Eighties' generation turns out to be less tolerant of income inequality and more suspicious of the motives of big business. Just 21 per cent of those under 30 have "a lot of interest" in politics, compared with 37 per cent of those over 50. Many of these apparent differences may just reflect people's ages and, as the Eighties' generation grows older, its degree of interest in politics may become more like that of previous generations.

The most distinctive feature of Thatcher's children is their anti-establishment views on the monarchy, protests and freedom of expression. Younger people are much less likely than older generations to believe in the claims of the law

over individual conscience. More than two thirds of the under-30s believe there are occasions when conscience should hold sway, "even if this means breaking the law", compared with two fifths of those over 50. The authors suggest that these attitudes may change less as people age.

The survey confirms earlier findings about a decline in public confidence in democracy. Fewer than one in four people trust government to put the interests of the nation above party, although among members of the sample interviewed after the election, there was some recovery in public confidence. This may just be the immediate response of Labour supporters to their party's victory and may not last (indeed, it will have been tested recently).

The intriguing disclosure is that the decline in trust in government does not explain the fall in turnout on May 1 to the lowest level since the war. Turnout among those who trusted the Government least was virtually as high as among those who trusted it most. More important is an across-the-board decline in public expectations of what government can or should do. For instance, just 26 per cent think government should provide jobs for everyone who wants one, down from 36 per cent in 1985.

Nonetheless, the public believes there is scope for improvement and strongly supports constitutional change, particularly of the House of Lords, Scottish devolution and freedom of information. The broad message is reassuring for the Government's step-by-step approach of deliberately lowering expectations. Voters are unimpressed by rhetoric but will respond to specific pledges being honoured. Tony Blair is right to want to protect his image of trustworthiness.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Secret lenders don't want you to know

Of course you're pleased as punch to have got your mortgage organised. Now you can go ahead and buy the flat or house you want. Your mind is full of things like removals, getting the telephone and electricity laid on for when you arrive and remembering not to pack the kettle and tea bags at the bottom of a case.

THE SMALL MATTER OF PROTECTION

You know you have to take out life cover to pay off your mortgage should you die. Everyone does. After everything you've been through over the last few weeks sorting this out is probably not the first thing on your mind. Who would blame you for just taking out the life cover offered to you by your mortgage lender?

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If you do this, over the lifetime of your mortgage, it may cost you thousands of pounds you needn't have spent.

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Lawyer-lie

Bullying police officer jailed for assault

Channel 4 will stir up storm over Christmas

Lawyer 'lied for her detective lover'

A Crown solicitor weeps as an Old Bailey jury is told she admitted 'a moment of madness'. Tim Jones reports

A SOLICITOR for the Crown Prosecution Service told "lie upon lie" to protect her policeman lover from a drink-driving charge, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Penelope Schofield, 35, sobbed as she listened to a statement in which she allegedly told police: "In a moment of madness, when I agreed to say that I had driven, I have lost everything — my career, my job with the CPS, and it is likely that I will be struck off by the Law Society."

Miss Schofield accompanied Detective Constable Nigel Phillips to a dinner-dance that he had helped to organise for Bitterne CID at the De Vere Harbour Hotel in Southampton last December. Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, said Miss Campbell took exception when she saw DC Phillips dancing with a policewoman. After a quarrel she left in a taxi.

DC Phillips, he said, had

continued drinking and eventually drove his Rover four miles towards the home he shared with Miss Schofield. During the journey a tyre on his car was punctured and he drove into the car park of Bitterne police station.

Inside the station, the jury was told, his colleagues realised he was drunk. He telephoned Miss Schofield and, as he returned to the car, he was stopped, breathalysed and found to be almost three times over the legal alcohol limit.

He was arrested and taken to another police station, where he again telephoned Miss Schofield. Later that night, Mr Campbell said, Miss Schofield telephoned a police inspector to say that she had been driving when the puncture happened.

He said: "That was a lie, the first of many she was to tell over the course of the next two months." Another police inspector visited Miss Schofield



Miss Schofield yesterday: denies perverting justice

in the early hours and, while he gave her a breath test, which proved negative, he saw on her kitchen table a law book open at a page on drink-driving.

She told the inspector that she had been driving when she and her boyfriend got into

a serious argument, Mr Campbell said. Her alleged statement said: "I hit a kerb or something similar and stopped the car. I was distressed over the whole domestic situation. I left him with the car and took a taxi to my parents' home." Evidence had

emerged from the hotel concierge that he had called a taxi for Miss Schofield after he had seen her arguing with DC Phillips.

The couple were arrested in February on suspicion of perverting the course of justice. Miss Schofield maintained she had been driving. Mr Campbell said: "She hoped to assist Nigel Phillips to secure a less severe sentence and perhaps save his career as a serving police officer." She claimed that she had ordered the taxi when she returned to the hotel to get her coat after leaving DC Phillips in the car.

Three days after her arrest, Mr Campbell said, she faxed another statement to the police in which she said DC Phillips had asked her to say she had been driving.

Her statement said: "Nigel was distressed and in tears because of the breathalyser reading. I was in tears and tired and confused, and in no

position to think about the matter rationally. When I said I had been driving, that was untrue."

"I wanted desperately to tell the truth but I was in a difficult position. I didn't want to let Nigel down. I knew I was in trouble for lying in the first place."

"I am ashamed of what I have done and for the shame I have brought to my family. I did what I did as a girlfriend and not in my professional capacity. I worked hard to obtain these qualifications. My life revolved around the legal profession."

Mr Campbell told the jury: "Phillips had put her in a very difficult position and you will have every sympathy for her. But by telling lies she has committed a criminal offence."

Miss Schofield, of Hambleton, Hampshire, denies trying to pervert the course of justice. The trial continues.

'Bullying' police officer jailed for assault

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE officer who repeatedly kicked a student he arrested during a street disorder was jailed for six months by a judge who branded him a bully and a coward at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Judge Graham Boal told PC Paul Evans, 32: "You brought disgrace upon yourself and shame on your profession."

Evans, based at Stoke Newington in northeast London, was convicted of assaulting Ben Swarbrick during disturbances that followed a rock concert in May 1994. Mr Swarbrick was kicked 20 times by the officer. Another six policemen accused of various offences, including assault and perverting the course of justice, were acquitted.

Judge Boal said that the jury's verdicts in the case reflected a very different perception from that alleged by the Crown. The prosecution had claimed that police behaved with "appalling brutality", but the jury had convicted only one officer of a single assault charge and a few others of assault.

During the eight-week trial, the jury could not be told that Evans had been charged by Scotland Yard with breaches of discipline over allegations that he assaulted a woman who had called the police for help in a domestic dispute. Civil rights lawyers said he had been the centre of complaints concerning abuse or assault.

During the trial Evans assured the jury he was a "tolerant, liberal-minded person" and said: "I have never offered gratuitous violence to anybody." However, in 1992 a magistrate at Highbury lambasted him for dragging a black woman driver along the ground by the scruff of her neck.

In July 1993, Evans arrested and allegedly assaulted a suspect in East London. Legal sources said Scotland Yard sent out of court. There are two other cases still outstanding that involve similar allegations.



Boy Scouts in 1908. In the Great War, their exuberance was better suited to outdoor work than clerical duties

Boy Scouts were too naughty for wartime MI5

BOY SCOUTS were employed as messengers by MI5 in the First World War, but the boys proved too mischievous and were asked to leave, previously classified files have disclosed.

Their role was detailed in a report by H. Branch of the Secret Service Bureau, the wartime forerunner of MI5, now released at the Public Record Office in Kew. H. Branch consisted of the secretariat and administrative section, including the Registry of Secret Files.

After Captain Vernon Kell, head of the bureau, turned to the Boy Scouts for volunteers, the first Scouts arrived on October 29, 1914. By September 4, 1915, their behaviour was thought to be unacceptable. The H. Branch report, compiled after the war, says: "Boys were found to be troublesome. The considerable periods of inactivity which fell to their share usually resulted in their getting into mischief."

When the Admiralty began to employ boys as "coast watchers", the Boy Scouts at MI5 were advised to take up this work, "outdoor work being much more fitted to

their energy". Arrangements were made to replace the Boy Scout messengers with Girl Guides, "and the results were most satisfactory". The H. Branch report says: "The girls proved more amenable and their methods of getting into mischief were on the whole less distressing to those who had to deal with them than were those of the boys."

Initially, 11 Girl Guides were employed; the number rose to 34 by August 1916. They were put on their honour not to read the papers they carried. The girls worked from 9am to 7pm and were given half a day off every week and every second Sunday.

Apart from the Guides, 650 women were employed at various times by the service in the registry and as secretaries. Many were "lookers up", res-

ponsible for checking on suspected aliens.

There were "snags" when over-eager citizens let the authorities know of alleged German spies in their midst. The H. Branch report says: "In the early days of the war, when to the bucolic mind any person who spoke with a foreign (and often even a Scots) accent was a 'German spy', much curious information arrived in MI5."

Mistakes were caused by the phonetic pronunciation of the suspects' names. One alarmed labourer informed MI5 of the presence in his peaceful village of a spy boasting the astonishing name of Toe Kneec Old. This suspect turned out to be a harmless Italian chef whose Christian name was Antonio, the MI5 file discloses. One "looker up" was asked

to check the registry files to shed light on a message received which read: "Ayoub Duzer, now in Switzerland". The MI5 woman "naturally concluded that some Indian seditionist was meant and spent fruitless hours in endeavouring to trace him". She later discovered that the inquiry was for papers about fuses made in Switzerland.

In a report entitled "Woman's Work", it is disclosed that H. Branch made every effort to obtain "ladies of good education, and preferably those who had been to one of the large public schools or colleges". There was such a demand for more women to work in the registry that Cheltenham Ladies' College, Royal Holloway College and St Hugh's and Somerville, at Oxford, were asked to recommend former students.

As MI5 expanded, it moved premises, eventually to offices in the Haymarket. The women clerical staff proved so dedicated that they had to be "turned out almost nightly at midnight". When the bombs started to fall — the first Zeppelin attack was in the autumn of 1915 — the women refused to budge from their desks.

Life ban on mother guilty of terrorising ex-lover

By FRANCES GIBB

AN OBSESSED woman who burst into her ex-lover's home wielding two carving knives has been banned from contacting him again in the first case of its kind. Margaret Tucker is believed to be the first woman in Britain to be prosecuted under new harassment legislation introduced this year.

A court was told that Tucker, 48, a mother of two, bombarded Terry Murphy, a taxi driver, with up to four abusive letters a day after he ended their relationship. She persuaded her local housing association to move her from her home five miles away to one just two doors down from Mr Murphy. Finally, she broke into his flat wearing plastic gloves and carrying a carving knife in each hand.

Mr Murphy, 53, managed to flee after protecting himself with cushions. Tucker later told police: "I was going to kill him."

Passing sentence at Portsmouth Crown Court, the Recorder, Robert Harman, QC, banned Tucker of Gosport, Hampshire, from seeing Mr Murphy for life. The order under the Protection from Harassment Act does not cover accidental meetings.

Tucker admitted pursuing a course of conduct which caused Mr Murphy to fear violence. The judge placed her on probation for two years. He warned her that, if she broke the restraining order, she could face jail.

After the hearing, Mr Murphy said he intended to move from his flat to get away from her. "After what she has put me through over the past 12 months, all I care about is that she leaves me alone."

Tucker had met Mr Murphy through using his taxi, and a sexual relationship had developed between them. He said he went out with her three or four times and she then became obsessive and wanted them to move in together. When he ended the relationship, she became very aggressive, went to his house and was abusive and threatening.

Channel 4 will stir up storm over Christmas

By CAROL MIDDLELEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4 is to rescreen some of its most controversial scenes in a programme to celebrate its 15th anniversary. The lesbian kiss in the soap *Brookside* and an *Equinox* documentary on depraved sexual practices will be revived for the Christmas schedule.

Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4, also said the whole of Chris Morris's much criticised *Brass Eye* series would be repeated in the new year. Morris "set up" MPs and celebrities to appear in a spoof current affairs programme. Channel 4's former chief executive, Michael Grade, vowed never to work with Morris again after an obscene insult about him appeared in a subliminal message in the final programme of the series.

The *Storm Over 4* programme will include a programme about necrophilia, other *Brookside* storylines

such as the incestuous relationship between a brother and sister, and sex theme nights from *The Red Light Zone*. Bernardo Bertolucci's *Last Tango in Paris* and Derek Jarman's *Jubilee*, both premiered on Channel 4, will also be shown again.

A Channel 4 spokesman said: "Often a 'storm over' headline came about when a reporter got overexcited about a programme he had not seen, phoned an MP who had definitely not seen it, and then wrote a story which usually began 'MI5 tonight called for a ban on the Channel 4 programme which...' Mary Whitehouse and other critics of the channel will be quoted in the documentary."

Mr Jackson has continued Channel 4's tradition of generating controversy by backing the screening of Ken Loach's film *Ladybird*, which was censored by the Broadcasting Standards Com-



Jackson: wanted to mark channel's anniversary

mission earlier this year. He denied that there had been a ban on Morris. "We hope to work with Chris Morris again," he said. "I think that was a personal reaction from Michael [Grade]."

Mr Jackson, who is known to have scrapped the late-night *Grillie Show* when he arrived at Channel 4, was asked if he thought it was the worst programme the channel had ever shown. He said: "I plead the fifth amendment on that one."

Viewers will have a chance to pick controversial programmes when they vote, by post, phone or on the Internet, for their favourite Channel 4 programmes for Saturday December 21.

Television, page 51

Ministers confident over legal aid reform

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to publish details in the New Year of plans for scrapping civil legal aid and expanding "no win, no fee" work to most civil cases, including libel.

For the first time, officials have confirmed that defamation actions may be included in the "no win, no fee" arrangements. At present there is no legal aid for defamation cases. "No reasons have yet been put forward as to why defamation actions should not be included," one official said yesterday.

Ministers have taken counsel's opinion and are confident of surviving any challenge in the courts to the reforms that amount to a dismantling of the civil legal aid scheme. They argue that they do not need primary legislation for the reforms, which are planned to take effect in the spring.

Undeterred by mounting opposition from the legal profession and the consumer lobby, they plan to issue a consultation paper in January or February that will carry

first details of the plans. They are also commissioning a business plan from management consultants on the impact of the measures on law firms.

The consultation paper is expected to retain legal aid, or some kind of hardship fund, for certain areas of work, such as civil actions by landlords to evict tenants; and possibly for most people who now qualify for legal aid when they are forced to defend a legal action.

On Friday the Government will deliver a strong message in a debate in the Commons that lawyers' opposition to the reforms stems from their fear of losing a form of subsidy, provided through legal aid by the taxpayer. A senior official said: "I don't think any professional would be comfortable with having a subsidy taken away from it." Solicitors had been able to run cases "win or lose", he said. "Who would not fight for that? But that amounted to a subsidy and was 'extremely unattractive'."

Ministers and officials reject claims by the Law Society, the Bar and consumer groups that the changes will hit the poor and that the insurance market is not ready to provide affordable premiums that people will need to protect themselves against paying a winning opponent's costs. Officials are in talks with several insurance companies and say the market is alive to the prospects of their role under "no win, no fee" work.

They insist that unless the Government shows that it is determined, the insurance market will not come forward to step into the gap. "Nothing less than radical change and being resolute and firm will ensure this happens," one said. "Ministers can't sit down and redesign the market, they can make the changes which anticipate the policy and will lead to that."

Ministers will make it clear that until they can control the legal aid budget, they cannot free funds for a community legal service or for areas such as industrial tribunals.

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Compulsory fund could finance care in old age

By Jill Sherman and Anne Ashtworth

FRANK FIELD disclosed yesterday that the Government is considering introducing a compulsory insurance scheme to finance long-term care for the elderly.

The Welfare Minister, speaking in Berlin, suggested that people should have to pay regular contributions to insure themselves against the cost of care in their old age.

Mr Field, who is preparing a separate Green Paper on welfare reforms for the new year, said that he was particularly interested in the German system of compulsory insurance, which covers a range of care, at home and later in nursing accommodation.

to sell their homes to pay for nursing accommodation.

Mr Field emphasised that the German scheme could not necessarily be adopted in Britain but he urged members of the royal commission to examine this model. Under the German system, people have to pay 1.5 per cent of their salary into the insurance fund.

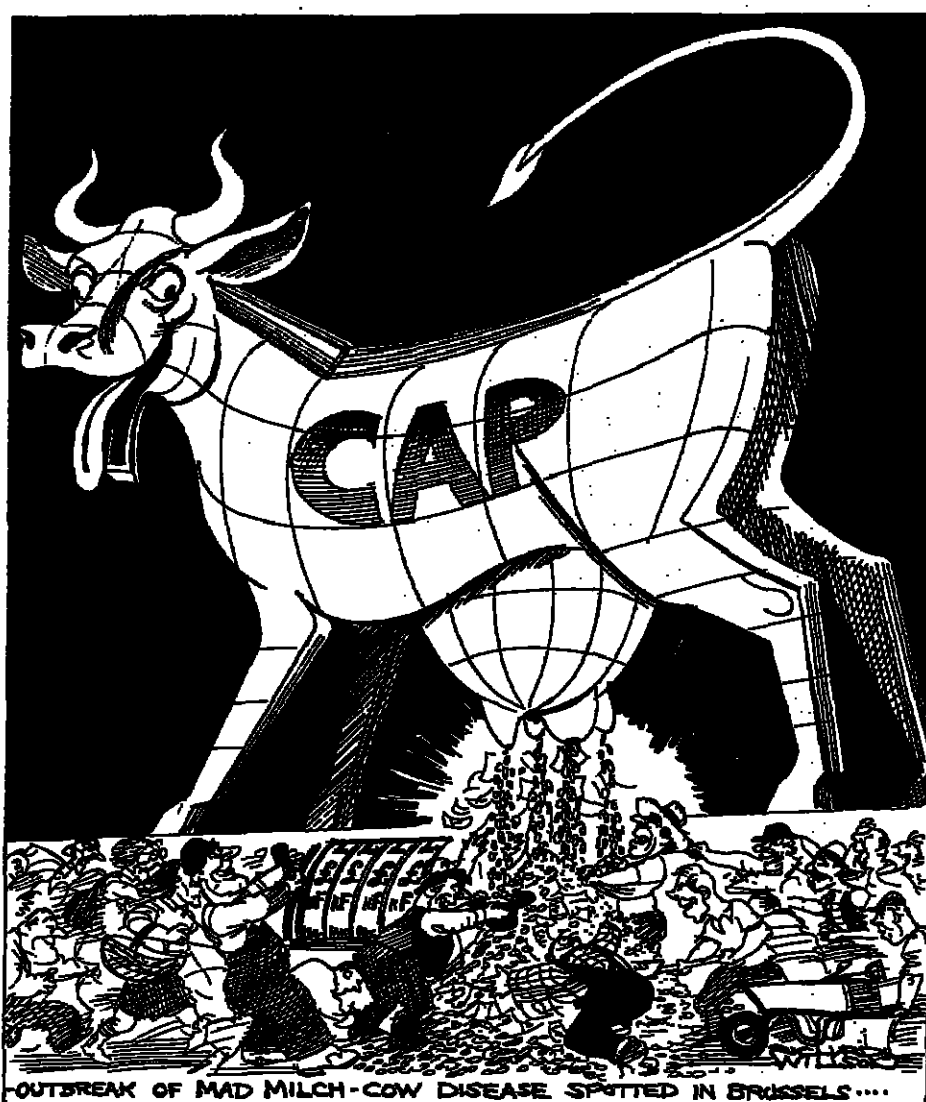
Half of this is met by the employer and half by the employee. Those earning more than £2,000 a month can choose to opt out, but they would then have to pay for their care privately.

Contributors pay into 1,300 different health insurance funds. Once they apply for cover, the fund assesses them and places them into one of three categories of need.

Those only needing minimum care would be able to opt for cash payment or services, such as home help. Those in higher categories would be given nursing accommoda-

tion. Mr Field told the Centre for British studies that the scheme, which started in 1990, had been much more successful in Germany than predicted. Funds were in surplus, despite a high take-up and this would cushion future increases in demand, he argued. "Such a scheme has obvious attractions. Like medical insurance, coverage would be almost universal. As a pay-as-you-go scheme, it could be introduced without too much delay. More importantly perhaps, the scheme created a link between insurance and benefits and removed the stigma of residential care being tied to social assistance."

Mr Field said he hoped that his forthcoming Green Paper would be a turning point in the restructuring of the £100 billion social security budget. However, he signalled that the paper would set out reforms that could take several Parliaments to achieve.



Farmers given billions in EU 'compensation'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union paid farmers several billion pounds in unjustified compensation for crops and animals, including payment for some cattle slaughtered in Britain's anti-BSE programme, the EU's financial watchdog reported yesterday.

The Court of Auditors singled out the common agricultural policy (CAP), which consumes almost half the EU's £53 billion annual expenditure, as a main source of fraud and waste in its annual review of the union's administration. Reporting to the European Parliament, Bernhard Friedmann, the president of the Luxembourg court, said lax management and swindling in EU spending cost up to an estimated £2.8 billion, or 5.4 per cent of payments from nationally and centrally administered funds.

The auditors noted a slight drop in mishandled funds, which totalled 5.7 per cent of spending last year, and they offered mild praise to Jacques Santer, the Commission president, for his efforts to tighten controls. However, for the third year the auditors said the irregularities meant they could not approve the spending accounts.

Cereal farmers were the biggest beneficiaries of anomalies in the CAP. In 1995 and 1996, they were awarded some £2 billion, based on acreage, to "compensate" them for crops that were sold at market rates far higher than the EU's guaranteed price. "The basic compensatory amounts for cereals is out of touch with world market prices," the auditors said.

Beef and veal producers received over half a billion pounds in unnecessary payments, they said. In a survey of the biggest farms, one British enterprise was found

to have benefited from £176 million of subsidy, second only to a German one that received £2.23 million. The Commission defended itself yesterday, saying that it had long sought to reduce the subsidies to reflect market prices, but had been overruled by national farm ministers.

The costly emergency measures to compensate beef producers after the mad cow crisis had been subject to confusion and exploitation, the report showed. Under the scheme to slaughter cattle over 30 months old, British farmers were supposed to receive EU compensation at a rate of £262 per animal incinerated. The Commission agreed to pay 80 per cent of a claim for 429,000 animals but overloaded facilities meant that only a fraction had been incinerated by the end of the year. Under another scheme for the slaughter of younger animals, Britain had also been wrongly compensated for 1,695 cattle that were over 30 months old.

In an investigation of abuses in personal compensation, the auditors reported evidence of fraud by members of two Brussels-based "superquangos", the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) and the Committee of the Regions. A spot check on travel expenses at the ESC, an advisory body with 222 members, showed that 60 per cent of claims for air and train tickets in a two-month period were irregular. In a technique that is also alleged to be rife in the European Parliament, members would charge for expensive tickets then obtain refunds. The auditors' findings produced an outcry when they were first reported in September. The committee has now introduced more stringent rules.

How unsafe meat was subsidised

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH farmers have been paid EU subsidies to market cattle above the age considered safe for human consumption under rules to protect the public against BSE, according to the Court of Auditors.

This was possible, the court says, because the Government allows veterinary inspectors to assess age by checking an animal's teeth. The 1,695 illegal cattle, for which there was documentary proof that they were over 30 months old, were sold under a "beef marketing

payment scheme" for which Britain was allocated £25 million by the EU. Cattle above this age are regarded as being at greater risk of BSE.

The audit report also questions another scheme that pays abattoirs between £80 and £100 per animal to slaughter and destroy newborn calves for which there is no longer any market because of the EU ban on British beef. It says a visit to one British abattoir found no adequate controls to ensure that carcasses were destroyed after slaughter.

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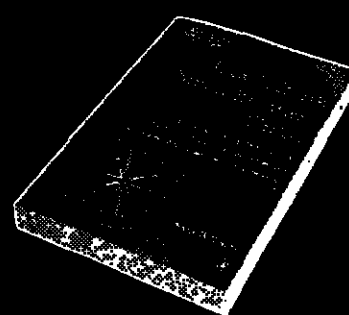
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Primakov reports progress on Iraq impasse

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, announced last night that he had reached a breakthrough in talks with a senior Iraqi official on resolving the confrontation between Baghdad and the United Nations, providing for a diplomatic solution to the crisis without the need to resort to force.

Mr Primakov was speaking after talks in Moscow with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, who arrived unannounced yesterday morning. His trip to Moscow came after a weekend pledge by President Yeltsin to intervene to end the crisis.

Mr Primakov said that the plan was based on proposals

sent by Mr Yeltsin to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq "some days ago". Mr Aziz, who also had talks yesterday with Mr Yeltsin, had brought Saddam's reply. Mr Primakov said that Mr Yeltsin's letter had offered a detailed plan to break the present deadlock, but he did not give details.

The programme provides for avoiding armed conflict and resolving the crisis by Iraq's implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

In reference to an earlier indication by America of a willingness to negotiate an end to

RAF Tornado fighters land at the Incirlik joint Turkish-United States airbase in southern Turkey yesterday after a mission to monitor the no-fly zone in northern Iraq

the crisis, Iraq claimed yesterday that it had scored a "resounding political and diplomatic triumph". The state-run newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* credited Saddam, a "thinker and strategist", with inflicting a "crushing defeat on America and Britain".

The front-page editorial stated: "If America attacks Iraq, it will face severe condemnation from various countries. If it retreats and brokers an agreement through the United Nations or directly

with Iraq, this means victory of peace and dialogue."

Diplomats agreed that Saddam had forced his enemies into their first concession since the Gulf War, but said talk of an Iraqi victory could well be premature given the continuing American military build-up in the Gulf. "The fact

that [Britain and the US] declared publicly they are willing to modify the sanctions regime is very significant. Saddam has broken the dam," a diplomat representing a moderate Arab country said. "It will now be very difficult for the United States to go back to the status quo that

existed before October 29 [when Iraq announced it would expel US weapons inspectors]. He added: "There will now have to be some very delicate diplomatic footwork whereby Saddam can be rewarded but without letting the Americans lose face."

A State Department official in Washington said that he was aware of Mr Primakov's announcement, but declined to comment without seeing the plan in full.

Moscow has maintained

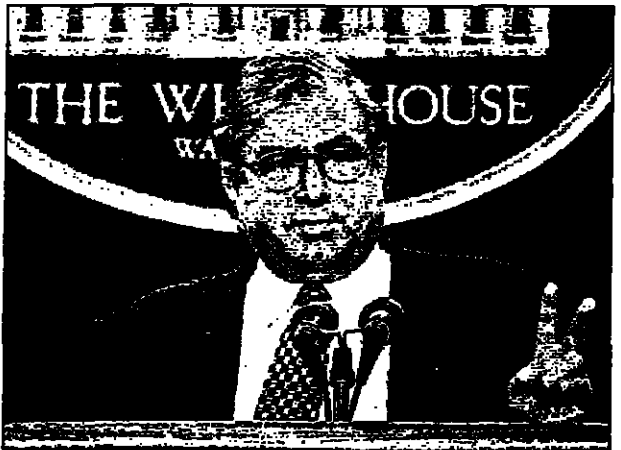
good relations with Iraq since Soviet times and has long called for the lifting of international sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. If any breakthrough were achieved as a result of Russia's intervention, it would greatly increase Moscow's standing in the Middle East, where Russia has been largely sidelined since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Last weekend Mr Yeltsin spoke to President Clinton on the telephone and agreed to

use Moscow's special relationship with Iraq to resolve the confrontation. Russia has already said that Iraq must allow the inspectors back, but is adamantly opposed to proposals by the United States and Britain to use force.

Mr Primakov emphasised yesterday the importance of allowing the UN Special Commission on dismantling weapons of mass destruction to continue its work in Iraq.

Leading article, page 23



Berger announces plans in Washington yesterday to send aircraft reinforcements to the Gulf region

US sends more planes in case diplomacy fails

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA yesterday announced plans to bolster its air power in the Gulf because of the uncertain stalemate with Iraq over United Nations weapons inspections.

After a meeting between President Clinton and his top foreign policy aides Samuel Berger, the National Security Adviser, announced United States plans to reinforce more than 200 warplanes that are already in the region.

The decision, thought to include the deployment of B52 cruise missile-

carrying bombers and F117A Stealth bombers, came shortly after an American pilot completed the second uninterrupted flight by a U2 surveillance aircraft since President Saddam Hussein threatened to shoot down UN spy planes flying over Iraq.

The United States had warned Iraq of serious consequences, hinting at severe military retaliation, if it fired on the U2.

The Pentagon was expected to announce the number of new warplanes involved last night and state whether they would, as in the past, be stationed at Diego Garcia, a

British dependent territory in the Indian Ocean. Mr Berger said that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — America, Britain, Russia, France and China — were trying to arrange a meeting in Europe to discuss the crisis. But it is unlikely to take place today.

Washington viewed the meeting as an opportunity to hear full details of the Russian plan to resolve the crisis and to seek complete solidarity from Russia and France on the need for Baghdad to allow the weapons inspectors back into Iraq with no caveats from Saddam.

British and American officials

maintained yesterday that diplomacy remained the best route to achieve positive results with Saddam but said they were pursuing a double-pronged strategy of increasing military pressure on Iraq while negotiations continued.

Still unable to mount a credible coalition for any military action against Iraq, diplomats from London and Washington are working hard to maintain support from the Arab states in the event that, despite apparent successes yesterday, such a course should become necessary.

Mr Berger said the Administra-

tion was interested in improving the existing UN arrangement that allows Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil providing the revenue is used to buy food and medicine.

But he firmly denied that it would be used as an inducement for Iraq to allow the inspectors back — a view that Baghdad had claimed as a sign of victory over the West.

"Once this crisis is resolved, if it is resolved satisfactorily, and Saddam comes into compliance, we would be in favour of having more oil available, under UN supervision, for food, to avoid any suffering to the Iraqi people," Mr Berger said.

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Holocaust survivor wins Swiss payment

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

AN ELDERLY Jewish Holocaust survivor yesterday became the first of thousands of Eastern Europeans to receive compensation from Swiss banks eager to restore their image.

In an emotional ceremony in Riga, the Latvian capital, Riva Sefer, a frail 75-year-old, received \$400 (£235), the first instalment of a \$1,000 compensation package.

The Swiss banks established the \$200 million fund in response to allegations that they collaborated with Hitler and kept the assets from bank accounts belonging to Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Jerusalem: Israel's parliament threatened Israeli banks with prosecution yesterday if they persisted in refusing to identify the owners of dormant Nazi-era accounts. (AFP)

Gaddafi on trial in Berlin

The Libyan leader's role as a sponsor of terrorism is central to the disco bomb case, writes Roger Boyes



Police examine the wrecked Berlin disco: Colonel Gaddafi's regime is accused

East German secret police, says that a Palestinian, Yasser Shryadi, a member of the Libyan-sponsored terrorist group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), paid his fellow Palestinian, Ali Chanaa, to assemble the 6.5lb bomb spiked with metal fragments. Mr Chanaa's German wife Verena identified which discotheques were frequented by US soldiers, the charge

sheet says. Frau Chanaa and her sister planted the bomb.

Mr Chanaa was a chauffeur at the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin. Musbah Eter, a Libyan diplomat, is charged with being an accomplice. It is his evidence that clinches the connection with Colonel Gaddafi as far as the prosecutor is concerned. In addition, American signals intelligence intercepted a message sent from the Libyan Embassy to Tripoli.

At 1.30 in the morning one of the acts was carried out with success, without leaving a trace.

The bombing of La Belle discotheque came against the backdrop of intense tension with America. A series of Libyan-backed terrorist attacks on airports had prompted the United States to stage naval manoeuvres off the North African coast. Two Libyan patrol boats were sunk.

The Libyans, according to the evidence presented yesterday, responded with the Berlin disco bombing. The trail of blood is said to have led ultimately to the blowing up of the PanAm plane over Lockerbie in December 1988.

Fourteen victims of the Berlin explosion, some of whom lost limbs in the blast, and their relations have taken civil action against Libya. Confident that the prosecutor's case against Libya is very strong — the prosecutor intends to name the country as a supporter of state terrorism — many victims plan to sue for compensation in American courts.

Colonel Gaddafi is thus set again to become a bugbear of the West. His involvement in terrorism goes back at least to 1971 when a British aircraft on its way from London to Khartoum was forced to land in Benghazi.

Among the groups that have benefited from Colonel Gaddafi's largesse are the Black September Palestinian group, the Eritrean Liberation Front, the Basque ETA and the IRA. Muslim rebels in the Philippines and radical groups in Chad, Thailand and Panama also benefited from Libyan money.



Ivanka Trump, daughter of multimillionaire Donald Trump, in a fashion show held outside the New York Stock Exchange. Her outfit featured ticker tape

Hillary Clinton tour

Livv: Hillary Clinton wrapped up an eight-day visit to five former Soviet republics yesterday by announcing a new White House-United Nations campaign against prostitution. "It is a violation of human rights when women are forced into prostitution," she said. "We want to reach women who may be in dangerous situations." However she gave few details to her audience in the anti-prostitution campaign. (AP)

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Mediaeval Baebes are classical music's Spice Girls. Interview by Nigel Williamson

Their appeal lies somewhere between Radio 3 and *TGI Friday* and their target audience ranges from *Gramophone* subscribers to readers of *Loaded*. Sex has been used to sell classical music before — look at the cover of any Vanessa-Mae album — but there has never been anything quite like the Mediaeval Baebes. Imagine the Spice Girls singing madrigals and you begin to get the idea.

Baebes are label mates with the Spice Girls and you have a bestselling popular phenomenon. And like the Girls, the Baebes are already preparing for the backlash.

"The classical world is elitist. They think you have to go through a lot of training to sing this music," says Rachel Van Asch, 26, who happily admits that until 12 months ago she had sung only in her bath. "We've proved that is not the case, and I know they are going to put the boot in. But if they are so intolerant and jealous, that's their problem."

The Baebes clearly share more than a record label with the Spice Girls, and Nicole Frohlich, 27, who trained as a dancer rather than a singer and has a dragon tattooed on her upper arm, displays a similarly spiky attitude. "A classical training can be limiting. It takes the joy out of it if you are concentrating on perfection all the time. You don't need to read music because singing is very natural. It just goes up and down, doesn't it?"

Apart from Katharine Blake, 27, the group's leader and musical arranger, who studied at the Purcell School of Music and the Guildhall, none of the other Baebes has any formal musical training. Their CVs are more in the "school of life" vein — one was a go-go dancer at a club called Cairo Jack's, there are a couple of fire-eaters, a witch, several who are into ritual magic and a couple of members of an alternative rock band, Miranda Sex Garden.

"To be honest I didn't know there was a classical chart until we were told we were top of it," Ms Van Asch says.

The Spice Girls comparisons are irresistible. The music the Baebes sing may come from different centuries but they draw on the same vocabulary of feminine empowerment, use their sexuality in equally upfront fashion and share an uninhibited, girls-behaving-badly attitude. "Lager-swilling, smoking, cursing, tattooed sex goddesses," their PR company called them, and when Virgin organised a showcase at a London club last month to parade its new signing before industry insiders, the Baebes lived up to the image. They were accused of forcing open a locked bar and making off with large quantities of alcohol.

"That's not true," Ms Van Asch says indignantly. "We



The Baebes employ the same vocabulary of female empowerment as the Spice Girls and share a girls-behaving-badly attitude

didn't force any lock. They left the booze blatantly on display, and being opportunistic women who like a drink, we took it." Ms Blake joins the protest: "What did they expect when they left the beers in a room full of pissed-up women? It served them right for being so moronic."

Their only objection to the Spice Girls comparisons is the idea that the Baebes are similarly manufactured.

There was no formula and no auditions, just a bunch of friends, says Ms Blake. "I had performed in a medieval band before but I wanted to make it more showbiz. The people I recruited were the people I was hanging around with, and we started 18 months ago by going to Hampstead Heath, having picnics and singing together. It wasn't really a business plan initially, it was just for fun."

She then set about training her new recruits with help from a voice coach at London's Trinity College of Music. The record deal came via a recommendation from Don Mousseu, who had masterminded Michael Nyman's rise to fame and already knew Ms Blake. On the album Mr Mousseu is credited with "project development" but Ms Blake denies he

is a Simon Fuller figure, orchestrating their every move. "We don't have a manager. We have an informal arrangement with him but we haven't signed a contractual deal. Because we are signed to Virgin, people think the label is pulling the strings. They find it hard to believe that we created ourselves."

Virgin may not have manufactured the Baebes but it swiftly saw the potential. "They were looking for this year's Christmas album and they found us. But they haven't imposed this image on us. There was no commercial decision to be sexy. We just are," says Ms Blake. Ms Van Asch, who also makes their slinky white stage dresses, reinforces the point: "We are not trying to be all sassy when we are actually a bunch of nuns. We are genuinely a raunchy bunch of birds and that empowers the music and has put a bit of gusto into it."

Ah, the music. The reviews of the album are just starting to appear and the Baebes are bracing themselves for a hammering from the classical press. Even the untrained ear can tell that they sound more like a good school choir than professionally trained singers.

"The spirit is the important thing. We wanted to make this music fun, and the critics won't like that. Most of these girls hadn't even heard medieval music a year ago. I felt uncomfortable in the classical world because it is very insular. I wanted to take the knowledge that I learnt outside," Ms Blake says.

The Baebes are now preparing for a tour to capitalise on the album's success, but controversy has already dogged them. Plans to play in a number of churches have been jeopardised by revelations that one of the Baebes, Carmen Schneider, describes herself as a "witch" while several others confess to dabbling in the occult.

Such apparently deliberate courting of notoriety raises suspicions of a publicity stunt. "Several of us perform magic rituals. We've done a lot of positive magic, it's not evil. We don't pray to Satan," Ms Van Asch says.

The banter that follows suggests they are not entirely serious. "How do you think we got this record deal?" asks Ms Blake. A giggling voice cites a pint of baby's blood in the bathroom. Predictably, there have been rent-a-quote clerics ready to rise to the bait and condemn their "paganism".

Ms Van Asch says: "They're shaking with anger but we're not sure why. The Church seems to have a problem with us selling God's music with

this sexy image. Everyone can relate to our sexuality but the Church is not seeing the benefits. We're doing it a favour but it's terrified of 12 strong-minded, sexy women and I can see we might be a scary concept."

Which seems to bring us back to the Spice Girls. "There are parallels but it's not girl power, we're into princess power. Chivalry, not shopping," Ms Van Asch says. Such perfectly formed soundbites bear the hallmark of the overworked PR but Ms Blake denies it.

"There is a romance to the medieval period and everyone in the band is deeply romantic. Our images are not chastity belts but dragons and handsome knights. We want to encourage chivalry and honour. I'm not surprised by our success because the romance of princesses in castles has a universal appeal. It's every-one's fantasy."

One last time I ask whether their nascent career hasn't all been planned around a cynical marketing of "that fantasy". "Our only formula is to be talented, sexy and clever all at the same time," Ms Van Asch declares.

"And with humility and a sense of humour," Ms Blake adds. Easy, really.

© Salva Nos by the Mediaeval Baebes is released on Virgin.

New Barbie — for feminists

ONE'S view of the world is necessarily coloured by one's experiences. The fact that mine has been a lurid, tacky, Schiaparelli-if-only-pink for some time I thought was a personal development, the tonal stages I had to go through as the Calpol stains gave way to wall-to-wall Barbie.

But, I see now, the whole world's gone Barbie. A row of terraced houses in Salford — and that's both sides of the street — has been painted Barbie pink and even The Cotnam Shop stocks a serious artbook depicting the doll as collectable. And we know that if Sir Terence has clocked it, it's cool.

But more: the manufacturers, Mattel, announce that a new Barbie, with a

just to show that New Barbie is going to be more radical than anyone thought, out goes the Miss Texas 1983 hair.

If you were interested in this from a Barbie-centric perspective, you could ask whether the new Barbie will still be the Barbie we know: the one that sells at the rate of two per second. I suspect she will. We adults are all obsessed by her looks: what little girls like is the dressing up. A new doll means a whole new wardrobe: why should they complain?

But it's the guff that's spoken about her from a sexual-political angle that worries me more. The general consensus seems to be that Barbie is to have a boob job "and that should keep

Nigella Lawson

new streamlined figure and remodelled face, is to be exhibited at an American toy fair in the new year and the press is beside itself with speculation. This is no longer just a good story: it's significant.

Well, Kate Millett it isn't, but this is the deal, significance-wise. The doll we have now, M'lad, has a disproportionately curvaceous figure. Well, she would, she's a doll, you could argue. But that's not what her detractors mean. They mean that if dolly-shape were translated into human dimensions, her statistics would read 38-18-34. This, I grant you, would be improbable. The new Barbie is to do away with such an unrealistic figure: her measurements are, scaled down, to be 34-22-33. I leave it to you to decide whether this is an any more healthy image to propagate.

To go with the body, a new face is being organised. And

the feminists happy". Excuse me, but why? Look, I knew that a peculiar school of self-loathing feminists have always viewed the female form as something to get angry about, but that doesn't mean the rest of us should go along with it.

But they do. A woman I worked for once remarked on some Page Three girl or other's "improbable and insulting statistics". I understand why the Page Three girl should have come in for some ideological stick, but I have never quite understood why being privately bosomy should be thought to be an anti-feminist act.

Sorry to be a bore, but what feminism teaches is to be alert to meanings that are appended to things, the inferences that are routinely drawn from appearances. What's the point if we just carry on making the same inferences, drawing the same conclusions.

A peerless show of hypocrisy

SOME things we know: politicians have no sense of shame; what they lack there, they more than make up for with self-importance. This much we expect, and were these expectations simply met, there would be no need to remark on it. But Roy Hattersley goes off the scale.

Right off it: he catapults himself into some as yet uncharted stratosphere of ridiculousness, how could he pompously in such a way as to guarantee that even the terminally unimpeachable be left cringing.

Now, there is nothing wrong in wanting to have the House of Lords abolished. Some of my best friends want to see the House of Lords abolished. But if they do, they don't accept peerages. Or perhaps, that isn't quite true: I think they may, but they go quietly, with the decency to be silenced by their hypocrisy. Where Hattersley is wrong is in thinking that by making a fuss he is absolving himself of any want of decency or soundness.

He confesses to "having hysterical every time I think of taking any oath of allegiance". Should we be grateful, then, that he is to style himself, from Monday, Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook? I rather think he feels we ought.

I suspect, too, that he feels his moral standing is fully protected by the heavy underlayer of irony called into facelious play here. But no amount of bluster can hide

the fact that he chose to accept his peerage. I don't wish to imply that he should have turned his down, but what we shouldn't have to witness is the struggle between him and his putative conscience, culminating in the ignoble triumph of the former over the latter.

It is customary to lament the passing of the old Left — of which Hattersley is an undistinguished relic — and to mourn its ideals of decency and integrity, lost or discarded by an opportunistic new Labour Party.

Oh really? Give me Peter Mandelson any day.

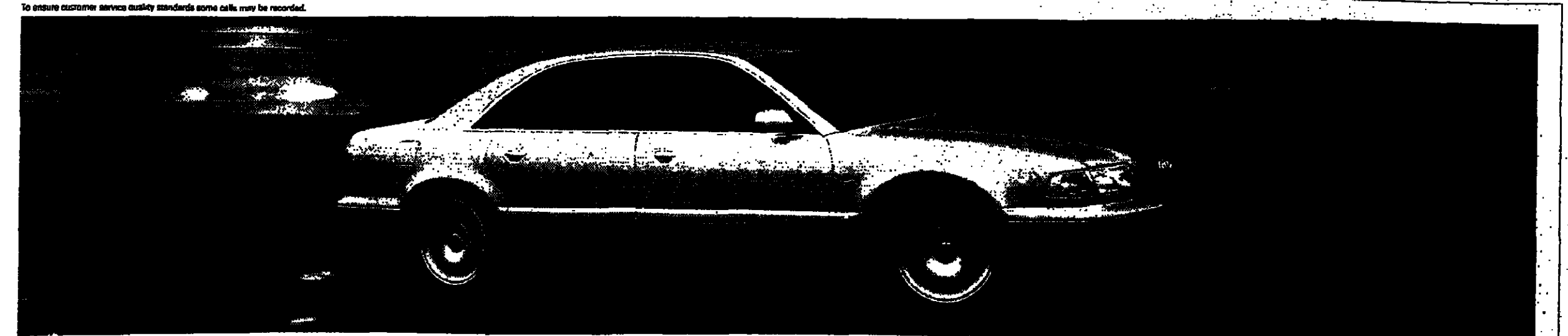
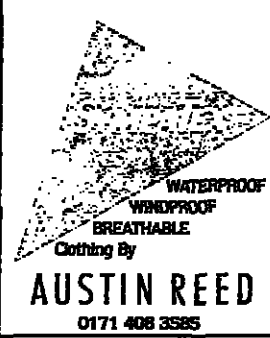
A denial of human rights

A MAN is currently trying to stop his borough council giving a close-circuit television film of his suicide attempt to the BBC programme *Crime Beat*. Since I can buy videos of people speeding, without their permission, it is obvious that far from living in the post-permissive age, we are living in a cruelly unforgiving and almost fundamentalist one: any misdemeanour seems enough to deny anyone the basic liberal rights.

Speeding is one thing — although the principle should be enough — but to be able to publicise human fallibility to the extent of broadcasting someone's suicide attempt is distasteful to the point of decadence.



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Why Europe can't afford the euro

Milton Friedman explains the danger of a common currency

A common currency is an excellent monetary arrangement under some circumstances, a poor one under others. Whether it is good or bad depends primarily on the adjustment mechanisms that are available to absorb the economic shocks and dislocations that impinge on the entities considering such a currency.

Flexible exchange rates are a powerful adjustment mechanism for shocks that affect the entities differently. It is worth dispensing with this mechanism to gain the advantage of lower transaction costs and external discipline only if there are adequate alternatives.

The United States is an example of a situation that is favourable to a common currency. Although composed of 50 states, its residents overwhelmingly speak the same language, listen to the same television programmes, see the same movies, can and do move freely from one part of the country to another. Goods and capital move freely from state to state, wages and prices are moderately flexible, and the national Government raises in taxes and spends roughly twice as much as state and local governments. Fiscal

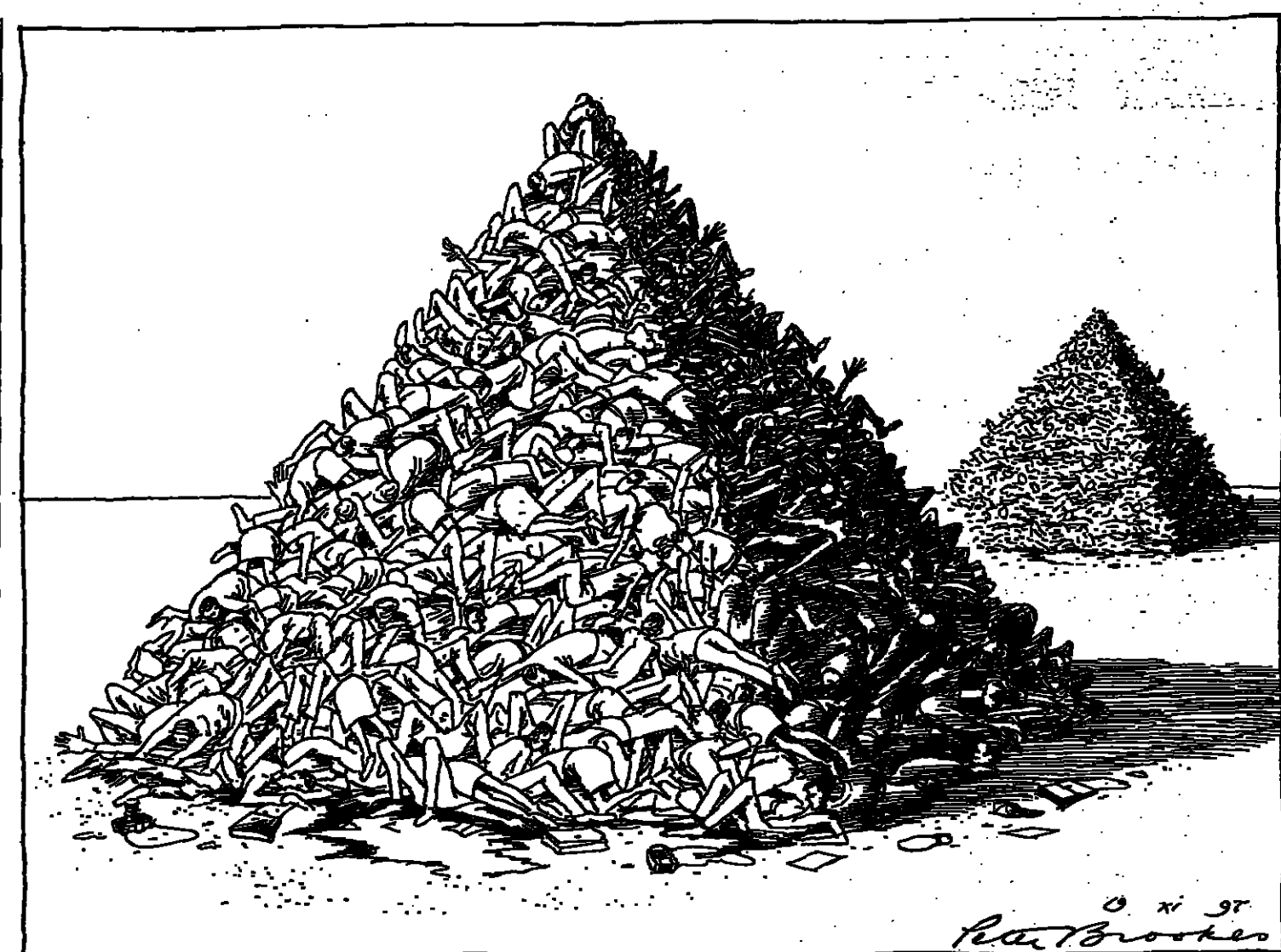
say, lower wages relative to other countries, that can be achieved by a change in one price, the exchange rate, rather than by requiring changes in thousands on thousands of separate wage rates, or the emigration of labour. The hardships imposed on France by its "franc fort" policy illustrate the cost of a politically inspired determination not to use the exchange rate to adjust to the impact of German unification. Britain's economic growth after it abandoned the exchange-rate mechanism a few years ago to refloat the pound illustrates the effectiveness of the exchange rate as an adjustment mechanism.

Proponents of the euro often cite the gold standard era from 1879 to 1914 as demonstrating the benefits of a common currency. But the gold standard also had its costs. The period was characterised by declining prices from 1879 to 1896, rising prices thereafter, and sharp fluctuations within each period.

The standard was viable only because governments were small (spending about 10 per cent of the national income, rather than 50 per cent or more, as now), prices and wages were highly flexible and the public was willing to tolerate, or had no way to moderate, wide swings in output and employment. Take away the rose-coloured glasses and it was hardly a system to emulate.

As of today, a subgroup of the European Union — perhaps Germany, the Benelux countries and Austria — come closer to satisfying the conditions favourable to a common currency than does the union as a whole. And they also have the equivalent of a common currency.

Austria and the Benelux three have, to all intents and purposes, linked their currencies to the mark. However, these countries retain their central banks and hence can break the link at will. Any country that wishes to link to the mark more firmly can do so on its own, simply by replacing its central bank with a currency board, as some countries (such as Estonia) outside the EU have done.



Hysteria calls the shots

Over-reaction to the Luxor massacre would be to give in to terrorism

When the Assyrian warrior Ashurbanipal descended on Thebes in the 7th century BC, he razed it to the ground. This first great terrorist boasted that he took the entire city, "silver, gold, precious stones, costly garments, great horses, men and women, obelisks covered with carving... and brought them to Assyria". The sack of Thebes appalled the Mediterranean world by its cruelty. Children were dashed to pieces on the streets. Noblemen were sold by lot. "Her strength was infinite," wrote the prophet Nahum of Thebes, "yet she was carried away into captivity".

Monday's massacre on the site of that city saw a new Assyrian terror, from fanatical opponents of Islamic reform. But whereas Ashurbanipal terrorised by laying waste an entire city, the death squads of Jamaa Islamiyya needed only to machine-gun a busload of Western tourists. Any blood is news. But Western blood travels the globe. A dead Westerner is a media ticket to ride. Ten thousand Algerians may have died in a similar cause, a hundred thousand Afghans, a million across the Arab world. No matter. In the grim calculus of media values, a dead Westerner is worth a thousand Arabs. His corpse demands a headline and clears a page to shout his killer's cause.

There is no Westerner so productive of publicity as a tourist. Few identify with a murdered businessman or diplomat. A murdered tourist is one of us. He inhabits the same glass capsule from which we too see the outside world, travelling with our minibuses, our tour guides with broken English, our lists of familiar sites and formulaic hotels. We know these places. The path to the Sphinx, the Corniche at Luxor, the drive to the Valley of the Kings are corners of a foreign field that have become for ever England. Machine gun us there and you machine gun us in our backyard, surrounded by cultural family and friends.

The initial foreign reaction to Monday's event was predictably irrational. The Luxor murders may have been different only in number from a dozen attacks on tourists in Egypt over the past five years. Yet statistical terrorism took hold. Story dead was not just six times "more" than when ten tourists died in a similar attack last September, but ten times "worse". A murderer had become a massacre. We feel obliged to inflate our horror.

As the media blazoned the news round the world, tour companies organised flights to remove their clients from the scene. A mortified Egypt looked on, while the British Foreign Office said people should leave Luxor as their "security could not be guaranteed". The implication that security was "guaranteed" before the killings but not after was ridiculous. No matter. Public statements at such times must synchronise with hysteria. The only sane voice I heard was from a Manchester woman in a Luxor hotel. She insisted her holiday would continue, because to pull out would "double the misery this tragedy has

caused the Egyptians we have met". Would that someone in authority had said the same.

True, a holiday is supposedly about relaxation and freedom from care. The last quality it should require is bravado. Tourism is also a marginal activity, its decisions bordering on the whimsical. In the 1970s, the IRA decided that dead Irish men and women were losing their media appeal, and that dead Americans might do better. It exploded bombs and killed tourists in London, wiping millions from Britain's overseas account because Americans stayed away in tens of thousands. Murderers fuelled with American money were inflicting less danger on visitors than drunk drivers on a Saturday night. Yet Americans believed that the West End had a bomb in every restaurant and a grenade in every pub.

The tourist is no great student of probability theory. He just wants to feel good. When Mother Hysteria is calling the shots nobody looks at a risk assessment.

Such unreason is oxygen to the terrorist. Trotsky argued that the key to revolution was to manoeuvre the weapons at your disposal to convert apparent weakness into strength. Globalisation of publicity has offered the crank and the fiend a vast realm in which to market their message. In recent years this has meant hijacked planes, kidnapped students, contaminated food, hacked mainframes and corrupted computers, with the media in unrestrained support. Yet even in this high-tech age, nothing has the global appeal of the most old-fashioned weapon of terror — a picture of a blood-stained body in the street, product of a bullet or a bomb.

The tourist cannot stand aloof from this process. His is the biggest global industry, whose impact on poor countries is benign or devastating according to point of view. (The green lobby worries about Third World products, rarely about Third World services.) The tourist may be no more than a pawn in a political game, but even pawns can move and kill. The behaviour, spending pattern and sheer quantity of Middle East tourism is central to the case of Islamic conservatives against their victim regimes. They want the tourists gone.

Visitors to Egypt may deceive themselves that they are mute hedonists, mere spectators of the march of history. They should be disabused. Their money and presence fuels social change. Indeed, if pressed, they would probably agree that foreign exchange and capitalism are good for Egypt and the more of it, the sooner the better. The youthful Grand Tourist in the 18th century was instructed not to confine his attention to art. He should enquire and learn about the political and social life of the countries through which he travelled, thus to broaden his mind. He was entering its "society" and should know what he was doing.

Alan Coren



What has driven Labour to join in this whole sorry business?

Yes, of course we shall all remember where we were and what we were doing on the day the Prime Minister of Great Britain said he was sorry. How could we not? We were all eating our Sunday lunches and staring at our tableside tubes. And when he said he was sorry, all our jaws fell open, and all our forks paused in mid-air, leaving the roast beef of Old England and the poached squid of new Labour trembling alike on all our tines. Many of us will have started weeping. It is what we do, these days. Indeed, after we had recovered somewhat and blown our noses, not a few of us will have risen from the table to light a candle for him, or rummage in a nearby drawer for yellow ribbon, possibly both.

And thus, spun as we had so deftly been into quivering empathy with the pretty straight guy he had just reminded us that he was, it occurred to none of us to ask ourselves the only question he did not address. I do not blame the rest of you for not asking it. I did not ask it myself until a good hour later, when, still stifling the odd sob, I was exhuming the geraniums in my front garden and some adolescent maniac in a howling rustbucket came belting down our suburban hill at a shade under 200mph, braked for the corner, spun through 360 degrees, stalled, and then shot squealing off again, no doubt to take a second crack at suicide somewhere else. It was only then, as the reek of burnt rubber and the drunk of dangling exhaust fumes faded on the air, that the unasked, unanswered question burst upon me. It wasn't about accepting fat donations from carcinogenically subsidised businesses, it wasn't about misleading Parliament over second similar donations, it wasn't about the fitness of assorted insider interests with which these donations might be fraught, it wasn't, about the broken, electoral, promises, of countless wordy weasels, it was about what in God's name the Labour Party thought it was doing by getting into bed with motor racing.

Last week, in one of the myriad sidebars to the present shenanigans, the Cancer Research Campaign announced incontrovertible evidence that teenage motor racing fans smoked twice as much as their unafraid peer group. No surprise there: the symbiosis between spuriously glamorous death-defying pastimes is clear enough, ask any adman, but what had particularly dismayed the CRC was that motor racing was the fastest-growing teenage spectator sport. I now invite you to join me in being even more dismayed than they are, since however grim the implications may be for the future of smoking, the implications for driving make the future grimmer yet.

Because we don't need the CRC to tell us that the young are obsessed with motor racing, we catch the sharp end of that obsession every day, cut up at roundabouts, overtaken on inside motorway lanes, tailgated on winding country ones, forced to swerve for unsigned handbrake turns or to hit our own brakes at a green light because some spotty chancer has gunned through a red, and we know exactly why they drive that way, it is because they are playing at being Villeneuve or Hill or, God help us, Schumacher, they are not going round the North Circular they are going round Hockenheim, they are not negotiating the Hangar Lane gyratory, they are negotiating the Brands Hatch chicane, and more unsettling yet, an exponentially increasing proportion of them, as a glance at the great statistics show, are doing it in race-tuned plunder they do not have to afford because they can afford a brick for the window and a pair of pliers for the ignition, and if the Old Bill gives chase, so much the better, since the Old Bill is really Old Damon, and, oh look, we have spun off at Druid's, and, oh look now, they are turning off our life-support.

Odd, I thought the Labour Party was obsessed with cars, too. I thought it was obsessed with cutting their numbers, their size, their power, their environmental and human destruction, I thought Tony's abiding aspiration was to see us all on clockwork buses or pushbikes, I cannot recall any pledges that motor racing and all that it encourages would be passionately supported. But I'm a pretty straight guy, I'll take another shufti at the manifesto, and if I'm wrong, I shall of course apologise.

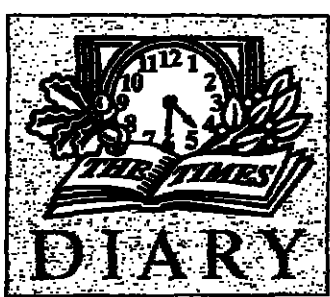
Film noir

DEAD actors are writing the unsavoury appetite of Madonna: the character is to make a film about that most missed comic master, Peter Sellers. His surviving friends, including Lord Snowdon, are not happy. The flick will be based loosely on Roger Lewis's salacious 1994 biography, *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*. It is an unhappy story. Worn out by drink and four unsavoury marriages to actresses Anne Howe, Britt Ekland, Miranda Quarry and Lynne Frederick, Sellers died after collapsing in the dowdy Dorchester Hotel in 1980, aged 55.

The film will be made by Madonna's company, Maverick Productions. "I loved Peter but I will not be co-operating," Snowdon tells me. "His private life is not a suitable subject for a film." Madonna will not be short of parts. She could play Ekland, or one of Seller's stable of lovers — Priscilla Presley, Mia Farrow, Liza Minelli.

If the director feels she is a little, well, senior for such roles, she could portray Seller's mother, with whom poverty forced him to share a bed until he was 16. "Madonna is very keen to meet Lewis," says a Tinseltown source. "Her producer lunched him at the Garrick. Madonna was so upset she couldn't make it." Perhaps a good reason for the Garrick staying men only.

AS if smoking had not already seriously damaged the Government's health, a group of Labour MPs is attempting to ban the House of Commons's own brand of cigarettes. The twenty friends appear in a box stamped with Parliament's imprimatur. Nearly 4,000 packets



ANN WIDDECOMBE's best piddown is about to enter common usage. Channel 4 will next month broadcast an episode of a new late-night current affairs programme. Something of the Night, hosted by that master of self abuse Will Self. The title refers to the former Home Office Minister's devastating description of her former boss Michael Howard. Naturally, Miss Widdecombe will take part.

Smoked out

AS if smoking had not already seriously damaged the Government's health, a group of Labour MPs is attempting to ban the House of Commons's own brand of cigarettes. The twenty friends appear in a box stamped with Parliament's imprimatur. Nearly 4,000 packets

a year are sold from behind the bars at Westminster. However, their sale is now to be raised with the All-Party Smoking and Health Group. But is it just a smoke-screen?

De-briefed

DANGEROUS, cash shortages. The once mighty Millbank Tower has been forced to suspend the "daily brief" which provides soundbites to keep confused MPs on message. "We don't have



enough people in the office because they are at by-elections," says one there. Labour MPs should make the most of this unexpected intellectual freedom. It will not last. "The daily brief will be resumed as soon as possible. Occasional briefs will be communicated as appropriate," waffles a Millbank memo.

FAME descended, briefly, upon Michael White, The Guardian's mischievous political editor, when he entered a young Labour bash sporting the name tag of Benjamin Weeg-Frosser. Peter Mandelson's influential assistant. "It was terrific," says White. "I met so many nice future Prime Ministers."

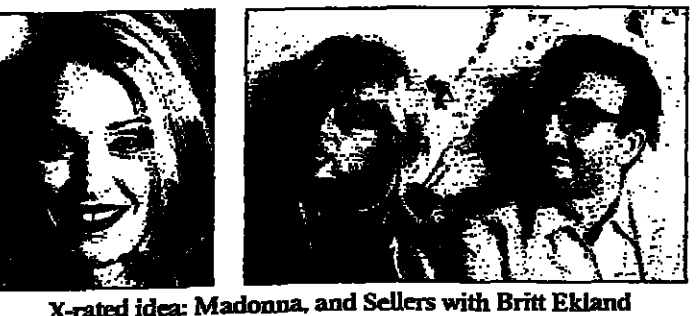
Not kosher

A NASTY spat is brewing between Maureen Lipman and the TV critic Victor Lewis-Smith over alleged anti-Semitism. The piggy in the middle is Vanessa Feltz, a minor — if well-proportioned — TV host. After three years of aiming such subtle abuse as "fat lardbucket" and "30 chins Feltz" at the hapless presenter, LS likened her to a "Yenta" (a dim but cunning woman). Ms Lipman is furious and has traded bitter letters. "Some of the words he used were unbelievable," she says.



TRADE is sullying yet another noble name: Rosina, daughter of Lord Cobbold, above, is setting up a furniture firm in the garden of her parent's stately, Knebworth House, Herts. Rosina Lytton Ltd will manufacture coffee-tables, big chairs — the normal country bungalow stuff. This is not the first time the Lytton Cobbolds have put their house to commercial use. Last year, to help pay restoration costs, they opened up to the rock group Oasis and 250,000 paying guests. "I'm using one of my father's buildings as a workshop," says Rosina, 25, who will design the furniture herself. "I've renovated it in return for the first five years' rent." To that other chippy, David Linley: beware.

JASPER GERARD



X-rated idea: Madonna, and Sellers with Britt Ekland



WHY ARE WE WAITING?

The Government must show radicalism now on the NHS

Frank Dobson is the St Augustine of this Government — he will keep Labour's promises on the National Health Service, but not yet. The Health Secretary's pledge to make waiting lists shorter is now, itself, on a waiting list, to be tackled in due course. The Department of Health has adopted a flexible approach to election commitments over the past few weeks but Mr Dobson's inability to deliver an early reduction in the numbers waiting for treatment is primarily a consequence of problems he inherited rather than created. It should be noted, however, that the decision to abolish tax relief for private health insurance taken out by the elderly has hardly reduced the demand for NHS beds. Given the pressures which Labour politicians knew the NHS faced, they may have been raising expectations too high with their campaign rhetoric but ministers have tried to be as good as the manifesto's word.

The Government may not have increased spending on the NHS by the 3 per cent health professionals demand, but expenditure has gone up by 1.9 per cent in real terms, 0.7 per cent more than the Conservatives had budgeted for. The appointment of Stephen Day to lead a Waiting List Action Team may strike the cynical as window-dressing, but the West Midlands director of the NHS has achieved striking success in reducing waiting lists in his region and the wider adoption of his proven good practice should help improve efficiency. Both the recent funding increase and any efficiency gains promoted by Mr Day will, however, only be palliative measures. The size of waiting lists is only one, albeit painful, symptom of a deeper problem with the health service which will require structural reform from the Government to correct.

An indication of how daring the Government might be will come with the publication of a White Paper on the future of the NHS, expected before Christmas. The

minister responsible for the White Paper, Alan Milburn, is an imaginative moderniser committed to improving the delivery of patient care by learning appropriate lessons from service providers in the private sector. There is, however, a paradox inherent in adopting all the lessons that the private sector can teach except for the competition and choice which makes it so creative a tutor. The Government are in danger of cherry-picking rather than planting their own orchard.

Fundamental reform of the NHS will not be easy. With traditional Labour sensibilities already offended by the treatment of teachers and the prospect of welfare reform, radical change to the health service would require political courage. It cannot, however, be avoided. The NHS has been permanently on the verge of crisis since the mid-eighties and various internal efficiency improvements have not addressed the fundamental problems faced by the service. Even if the Government were prepared to countenance significant tax rises to try to meet the spiralling demand for health care they would be beyond anything the public could be expected to bear. Imposing new charges, especially for GP consultations, would only discourage early treatment and pile up problems for the future.

If ministers want to avoid an annual wrestle with the Treasury to keep waiting lists at an endurable level then they should start considering a move to some form of social, or stakeholder, insurance system which borrows the best from continental and US public sector practice and allows competition to lever down costs. The Minister for Welfare Reform, Frank Field, yesterday outlined a vision of government-supervised insurance for the costs of care which could revive the spirit of voluntarism. Frank Dobson could do worse than learn from Mr Field, who, if not a saint, is the closest the Government has to a prophet.

DIPLOMATS AND DICTATORS

Dialogue with Iraq should not dilute allied objectives

It was the day of the diplomats. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Boris Yeltsin both held talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, in Moscow. Meanwhile, Benjamin Netanyahu and King Hussein of Jordan met in Amman. Further activity is proposed for the foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in Geneva over the next few days. This implies a diplomatic solution is a distinct possibility.

This dialogue represents the quest for a deal under which Iraq would allow UN inspectors to re-enter its borders. The mediators have sought something to offer Saddam. It has been hinted that there might be an alteration in the inspection teams that would offset the disputed American element. The United States has indicated that, if she co-operates, Iraq might obtain a modest increase in the amount of money it is allowed to raise through oil sales to purchase food and medicines for its population. Alternatively, the range of available materials that could be bought under this scheme could be slightly extended.

Allied interest in such an arrangement is understandable. A military strike against Saddam would surely court widespread international condemnation. This would be especially true in the Middle East itself. Few countries, other than Britain and Israel, would support American action. President Clinton could not be certain that even an intense assault would ensure that Iraq relented. The prospect of prolonged strife is unwelcome in Washington. A "face-saving" formula would be exceptionally convenient.

There is, though, a thin line between allowing Iraq to retreat and the risk of outright appeasement. The danger is that the United States will end up in *de facto* negotiations with the Iraqi leader. At the

outset of this crisis the United Nations made it clear that the Security Council not Saddam Hussein would determine who carried out its inspections. This question was separate from the rules surrounding oil sales. That was and remains the right position on this issue. The Russians would link the two and, in Mr Primakov's words, show that there is "light at the end of the tunnel" on sanctions.

A bargain on these terms will be viewed as an important victory by Baghdad. Iraq will have eased its economic plight and obtained an invaluable three-week space in which to hide evidence of its biological and chemical arsenal. The United States and Britain will have lost their ability to shape allied strategy. The UN inspectors will have been rendered less effective. Saddam will foresee a time when sanctions are lifted despite his military ambitions. Furthermore, he will reach the conclusion that aggressive moves on his behalf are the best means of moving that moment closer. Conflict postponed at this point will lead to confrontation later.

The United States must entertain extreme caution before it makes such concessions. It is true that a showdown with Iraq would cause enormous diplomatic difficulties. However, if Mr Clinton thinks that he cannot strike Iraq at any time when the United States is unpopular in the Middle East then he might as well remove his armed forces entirely. The sole relevant criterion is whether Iraq is in compliance with its legal commitments. If it is, the end of sanctions will come automatically. If not, isolation and inspection should continue. The material declassified by the Foreign Office yesterday shows that Saddam can produce chemical and biological weapons very quickly. The US and Britain cannot dilute their original objectives. It will soon be clear if there is to be a day of the dictator.

ONCE MORE WITH PAPER BAG

Audience participation comes to the 1812 Overture

Drips of water can bore a hole in stone. So enough paper bags burst simultaneously could simulate the discharge of a cannon. On Sunday the audience at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, is being asked to test this proposition. Because of the expense of securing cannon for the performance of the 1812 Overture, each member of the audience is being given paper bags to burst at the appropriate downbeats of the baton.

Tchaikovsky, that tortured genius, might have disapproved of this resorting of his most popular work. But he hated its vulgar noisiness anyway. And the class of instruments that can be used to make music is open-ended, especially in the kitchen of the orchestra. The toy symphonies of the 18th century introduced warblers and tweeters. Gerald Hoffnung, the Heath Robinson of music, composed pieces for hosepipe and vacuum cleaner. Benjamin Britten scored *Let's make an Opera* for nursery sounds such as tinkling teacups.

Such novel instrumentation can create novel musical problems. Matteo Fargnoli's chamber music for cardboard box caused critical debate about which supermarket provided the most musical box. And audience participation takes control away from the maestro with the baton. John Cage's 4.33 was regarded by the composer as his most significant work. The performers

sit silently on the concert platform. The music is whatever noise comes from the audience and from outside the concert hall. The same composer's 0.00 is less problematic, since it can be performed by anyone in any way, and can be said not to exist.

This latest experiment with audience playing the music will be puffed with breathless interest. But audiences should probably be kept in their place — which is, of course, coughing and unwrapping toffees during the musical noises, and making their own loud noises at the end. To test the acoustics at the new Bayreuth theatre, local soldiers were brought in to squat on the floor. Wagner described them as his ideal audience. First, they were all in their places before the music began. Secondly, they did not talk or fidget while it was being played. And thirdly, when it was over, they made no pretence of having understood anything of what they had seen or heard and so sensibly refrained from airing their opinions about it.

After the paper bags, the next performance of the 1812 Overture at the Bridgewater Hall comes on December 2. The performers will be the combined bands of the Royal Marines, the Hungarian National Guard, and the Royal Swedish Navy. At least they should have the equipment to revert to Tchaikovsky's original score, without counting on the audience for their pops.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Political propriety put in proportion

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, Shall we ever come to our collective senses on the subjects of sleaze and adultery in public life? The record of the last half-century is not encouraging.

Once upon a time there was a minor common named Sidney Stanley, who persuaded a decent but unsophisticated junior minister to accept some small gifts, a transaction from which Stanley derived no perceptible benefits. The reports of the inquiry which followed filled the pages of the popular press for days, and the Attlee Government never recovered its reputation for moral integrity.

Later, Harold Macmillan's able minister, John Profumo, with a beautiful and talented wife to whom he was clearly devoted, chose not to admit to a passing affair with a girl named Christine Keeler. The Government fell in consequence.

More recently one or two Conservative MPs decided to augment their incomes by asking questions of minimal interest to the nation at large. The outcome of this was that the Conservative defeat at the next election was transformed into a rout.

Now we are back on track with tobacco advertising and motor racing. Clearly standards in public life must be maintained, and in this country they are, happily, exceptionally high. But, as we are unlikely to have a government whose members are all teetotal eunuchs with inexpensive tastes, there will continue to be lapses. Can we not attach proper proportions to them?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset.
November 17.

From Mr Richard Fawls

Sir, Not the least unsatisfactory aspect of the Ecclestone affair is that when the Prime Minister finally felt compelled to give some explanation he did so in a television interview rather than to Parliament.

Nothing, I believe, could demonstrate more clearly the contempt with which recent governments in this country increasingly regard democratic institutions, whatever they may say to the contrary.

Let us hope that the House of Commons, and in particular backbenchers on the Government side, take steps to assert the rights which Parliament has on behalf of the people.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FAWLS,
Kimberley Court,
Uckfield Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex.
November 18.

From Mr Ben Tominey

Sir, Professor Tony Eccles (letter, November 14) suggests that the number of UK jobs at risk in Formula One is "close to zero". Having been a motor-racing fan (and smoker) for many years, I found the suggestion almost comical.

Should Formula One be forced out of this country, it would have a very serious effect, not only on the jobs within the motor-racing industry itself, but also on the towns surrounding our tracks, which rely on the people that come to the races to survive.

Motor racing in this country is a major source of income. Should racing be forced out I see no reason why the manufacturing firms should stay in Britain, when they could set up in the Far East and race there permanently.

Yours faithfully,
BEN TOMINEY,
17 Upper Lattimore Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Alvin D. Stockmarr

Sir, Mr Blair should invest some of the £1.7 billion which smoking costs the NHS (report, today) on anti-smoking advertising to replace that of the existing tobacco advertisers. This can be done on a tapering basis, reducing to zero after, say, five years.

Mr Bernie Ecclestone will then have time to find alternative sponsors to pick up his end of the taper. At the same time he can save the alleged 50,000 jobs at risk and savour the satisfaction that he is preventing a large number of people, young and old, from the damage to health which smoking causes.

And the Government can sign up to the EU directive. Really, not such a hard choice.

Yours faithfully,
ALVIN D. STOCKMARR,
Stone Cottage,
Blind Lane, Coleby, nr Lincoln.
November 18.

From Mr Albert Alan Owen

Sir, Ecclestone?

Yours sincerely,
ALBERT ALAN OWEN,
Melindwr, Pontferydd, Ceredigion.
atacompos@aol.com
November 18.

Business letters, page 31

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Legal aid for infants and mentally ill

From Miss Jean H. Ritchie, QC

Sir, In his interview with Frances Gibb (November 7) the Lord Chancellor states that in medical negligence cases where a child has been brain damaged a claim should only be brought if the case has a 75 per cent chance of success — and then on a "no win, no fee" basis. In this way, he claims, parents will avoid the "agony" of litigation.

As a practitioner in the field of medical negligence I consider such a view to be seriously flawed. Brain damage causes cerebral palsy in the form of physical handicap and sometimes mental handicap too. The severity of the cerebral palsy varies between the very mild and the extremely serious, where the child cannot move, cannot speak and remains a baby trapped in a growing body.

The medical profession's view is that only 10 per cent of cerebral palsy cases are caused by doctors' negligence. Expert investigation is therefore essential in every case, frequently requiring reports from consultants in obstetrics, paediatrics, paediatric neurology and neuroradiology.

Under the Lord Chancellor's proposals a child, however badly damaged, will no longer have a right to legal aid for that investigation to be carried out. A solicitor and a barrister will have to do a considerable amount of work for no fee at all before they can even assess the chances of success; they will also have to pay the fees of the experts consulted. How many cases, in commercial reality, will then be investigated, let alone taken to court?

The Lord Chancellor's proposals will mean that many, if not most, de-

serving cases will not be pursued. Is that really what a compassionate society wants? I cannot believe that a Labour Government will lend itself to these proposals.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN H. RITCHIE,
4 Paper Buildings, Temple, ECA.
November 10.

From Dr Maurice Lipsedge and Ms Magi Young

Sir, We are dismayed by the Government's proposals to withdraw legal aid from people who have been assaulted or falsely imprisoned by the police or who have received negligent or abusive treatment from our psychiatric services.

The victims of these wrongs are usually the most vulnerable in our society. They can rarely afford to pay for legal advice. They could not afford the premiums for the legal insurance necessary for conditional-fee agreements. Indeed, of the very few insurance policies available, one specifically excludes cases involving psychiatric treatment.

We urge the Government to be aware of the serious civil liberties implications of denying access to justice to these groups. If the reforms proceed we will return to a society in which those who abuse their power or who exercise it incompetently will be unaccountable for their actions.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE LIPSEGE
(Consultant psychiatrist),
MAGI YOUNG (solicitor),
Parlett Kent, Portland House,
Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon.
November 11.

Berlin and Goldsmith

From Mr Frank Giles

Sir, My old friend and colleague William Rees-Mogg has attempted to compare the late Sir Isaiah Berlin with the late Sir James Goldsmith ("Two men with their hearts in history", November 17).

There is obviously room in all societies for men of reflection and men of action. But to discuss in the same breath these two men reveals a seriously defective sense of proportion. Comparisons, according to Shakespeare, are odorous. Though the dictionary defines this as sweet-smelling, I find this one just the opposite.

Yours truly,
FRANK GILES,
42 Blomfield Road, W9.
November 18.

From Mr Richard Ingrams

Sir, Used as I am to Lord Rees-Mogg's eccentric views, I cannot allow his equation of Sir Isaiah Berlin with Sir James Goldsmith to go unchallenged.

Toxic pesticides

From Dr Peter Brand, MP for the Isle of Wight (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, The findings by Dr Robert Davies on the use of toxic pesticides during the Gulf War (report, November 17) will be welcomed by the many in this country who believe they are victims of illness caused by exposure to organophosphates or other pesticides.

In a 1995 study by the Institute of Occupational Health, "significant differences" between workers exposed to organophosphate sheep-dip and control workers were apparent on three neuropsychological tests. This new study adds to a growing body of research which suggests that organophosphate exposure can cause psychiatric and physiological illness.

I believe that the Government should make accidental exposure to pesticides a notifiable event: in this way a complete collection of evidence for this distressing set of conditions can be built up.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRAND,
House of Commons.
November 17.

From Mr Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent (Labour)

Sir, I am concerned that the ultimate responsibility for the failure of the MoD to release information on the use

of organophosphate pesticides during the Gulf War seems to be being shifted on to departmental civil servants, away from former ministers (report, October 29).

On March 4 this year, Nicholas Soames, the then Armed Forces Minister, declined my request for the publication in the then forthcoming official report of corrections to each of the five inaccurate replies on the subject given in Parliament over the previous three years.

The latest statement, and the release to Parliament of further information by John Reid, Mr Soames's successor, suggest that I was right to persist in my request.

At the end of the defence debate on February 1, 1996, Mr Soames graciously to describe me as "completely barking" rather than address the serious points I had raised. Time has shown that I was indeed barking — up the right tree.

Rather than let civil servants carry the can, the present Government should ensure that the errors of past Conservative ministers are made plain.

A deserved outcome of this sad saga would be if Gulf War veterans are now properly compensated for their illnesses.

Yours sincerely,
LLEW SMITH,
House of Commons.
November 17.

Old wine, new bottles

From Mr Dave Jarvie

Sir, Thank you for Robin Young and Jane MacQuitty's splendid Naff Wine Guide, "Brands that fail the taste test" (November 15).

How lovely to remember the wines that we loved so dearly in our youth. Just getting familiar with them was the first rung on the learning curve.

I recently tried to express to a local wine appreciation class how necessary it was then to impress the opposite sex with the ability to order wine confidently in a restaurant and how, no matter what wine was ordered, invariably it came up tasting "chemical", "oxidised", "acidic", "sulphury" and "gross" — in fact, very much as MacQuitty and Young recorded.

It's good to see that some things don't change.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE JARVIE
(Founder, DJ's Wine Club),
35 Woodland Way,
Woodford Green, Essex.
November 17.

Students' benefits

From Mrs Anne Ruff

Sir, Students on a full-time course at the Inns of Court School of Law who are exploiting a loophole in benefits regulations should perhaps be congratulated, as future barristers, for highlighting the present ambiguity of what is a "full-time course" (report, October 30; letter, November 8).

There is no general definition of a "full-time course" in the social security regulations; each case is considered on its merits. In my experience, universities do not expect full-time students to attend classes for more than nine hours a week.

The Government's proposals to reduce public funding to higher education students may well encourage more students to look to the social security system as an alternative source of finance.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE RUFF
(Principal Lecturer in Law),
Middlesex University,
The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4,
a.ruff@mdx.ac.uk

Museums as 'perk' for middle classes

From Mr A. M. T. Maxwell-Irving

Sir, There is evidence to be found in Italy to contradict Magnus Linklater's view (November 13) of the deterrent effect of museum charges there. In Florence, where the Uffizi, the Pitti Palace and the Accademia all make a charge of 12,000 lire (about £4.50), there are nearly always long queues at the ticket offices: that at the Uffizi commonly extends for a quarter of mile or more along the banks of the Arno.

The annual takings from these three museums alone has been estimated to exceed £10 million a year, which goes a long way towards administering and conserving their priceless treasures. If the collections are worth seeing, the public will always pay.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. T. MAXWELL-IRVING,
Telford House,
Blairlogie, Stirling.
November 13.

From the Chairman of the Association of Independent Museums

Sir, The Department of Culture's apparent U-turn on admission charges (report, "Free museums 'are perk for middle classes'", November 12) was predictable, and is welcome. There is no such thing as a free museum — not even in the unlikely event that museum directors and curators were to offer their services in full as volunteers.

In whatever concessionary or rigorous form admission charges may be applied, they do generate a valuable contribution to museum operating costs. Even more important, they increase visitor expectations and usefully sharpen the collective museum view of its public-service purpose.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BRYANT,
Chairman, Association of Independent Museums,
Mill Meadows,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
November 12.

From Dr Michael Rasburn

Sir, What Orwellian logic, to claim that one has to charge for museum entry so that the poor (via taxes) do not subsidise the rich. The only problem is that some of those taxes already go to assist the museums.

Actually, if the museums were to charge enough they could keep out the nasty middle classes as well, leaving the field of appreciation back where it belongs (perhaps they might argue) with the seriously wealthy. A bit like grand opera!

Yours,
M. RASBURN,
Pleasant Villa,
Heapham, Lincolnshire.
November 14.

From Mr Kevin McGrath

Sir, Surely if museums were to become more like Marks & Spencer and Harvey Nichols, as the Arts Minister is reported as suggesting, the first thing they would do would be to abolish admission charges.

As for the implication that there is something inappropriate about people using museums as rendezvous points, how does this differ from the way they use shops, parks, railway stations and public places generally? They have even been known to go to Trafalgar Square without having, as their primary purpose, to stare at Nelson's column.

Yours truly,
KEVIN MCGRATH,
122 Herons Wood, Harlow, Essex.
November 13.

Choc horror

From Mr Leslie Gilmore

Sir, Sir Hans Sloane may have concocted milk chocolate and played a major role in founding the British Museum (letter, November 13) but, gad Sir, an Englishman he was not! Like so many of those who made innumerable contributions to every facet of British life, Sir Hans was an Ulster-Scot, born in Killyleagh, Co Down.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE GILMORE,
71 Kirkliston Park, Belfast.
November 18.

One of those jobs

From Mrs J. A. Temple

Sir, Let us hope that Mr Ernie Preston (letter, November 13) has had the good sense to store his blackout blinds — certain insurance against ever requiring them again.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER TEMPLE,
Winwick Manor,
Winwick, Northampton.
November 13.

From Mr Peter Wynne Davies

Sir, Taking down blackout blinds may be embarrassing enough, but developing wedding pictures after the subsequent divorce, as I once did, is perhaps even more so.

Yours etc,
PETER WYNNE DAVIES,
93 Bedford Road, N2,
peterwd@btinternet.com
November 17.

OBITUARIES

AIR COMMANDANT DAME JEAN CONAN DOYLE

Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, DBE, (Lady Bromet), Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, 1963-66, and daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, died yesterday aged 84. She was born on December 21, 1912.

Dame Jean Conan Doyle shared her father's taste for action and was thankful that she had had time for her own career before she succeeded to the onerous task of administering copyrights on Sir Arthur's works after her brother Adrian's death in 1971. Sometimes it seemed as if the problems she had protecting Sir Arthur's best-known character, Sherlock Holmes, exhausted even her boundless reserves of patience. "I occasionally feel, as my father did, that if anyone else says 'Sherlock Holmes' to me, I'll scream," she once said. "I know exactly how he felt when he finally pushed him off the Reichenbach Falls."

Jean Lena Annette Conan Doyle was educated at Granville House, Eastbourne. Her father, failing to foresee her future, once protested to her headmistress that it was useless for her to study Caesar's Gallic Wars because it was highly unlikely that she would ever be concerned with military matters.

With two older brothers, she grew up a tomboy, required to take her turn in the cricket nets, and was known as Billy to avoid confusion with her mother, Jean. She was how-

ever, the most bookish of Sir Arthur's three children, and the only one permitted to enter his study while he was working. She remembered, sitting in a big red leather chair next to the fireplace, listening to the sound of his nib rushing with hardly a pause across page after page.

Her father took her with him on his tours of America, Australia and South Africa. She recalled that he shouted at her only once — for walking noisily across a parquet floor — and then immediately asked her forgiveness.

She was the product of Sir Arthur's second marriage, to Jean Leckie, with whom he had fallen in love as his first wife, Louise, died a long, lingering death from tuberculosis. Sir Arthur behaved impeccably as Louise fought her illness for almost ten years, and it was only a year after her death that he permitted himself to marry Miss Leckie. There is no question that his sense of personal honour, sacrifice and propriety made a profound impression upon his daughter.

Jean was 17 when her father died in 1930, and, after staying on at the family home in Sussex to look after her heartbroken mother, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938. She was commissioned into the WAAF in 1940. For a short period during the Battle of Britain, she served at Hawkinge, then a radar station. In 1942, she was appointed WAAF staff officer at HQ No 9 Group in Lancashire, and, in 1943, she served at HQ, Fighter Command, and in 1943-45



was based at HQ RAF, Northern Ireland.

She was the postwar WRAF's administrative officer at HQ, Technical Training Command, from May 1962, having been deputy director of the WRAF at the Air Ministry for two years. She was appointed to a directorship of the WRAF in 1963.

She was sometimes compared to Joyce Grenfell for the

way that she tackled her duties with cheerful good humour, resilience and optimism. An undoubted workaholic, she often worked long into the night and admitted she had turned down several proposals of marriage because of her commitment to the people who worked for her.

It was, however, as a doughty champion of her father's good name that she became

best known to the public. The copyright on her father's works ran out in Britain on the 50th anniversary of his death, in 1980 (though it has lately been revived under EU rules); but under American law the estate was entitled to 70 years' copyright from the date of each publication.

She realised that this was enough to enable her to preserve the true character of

Sherlock Holmes, since all major books and films depended on the American market. She acquired an American-based agent and a group of experts in her father's works to read new manuscripts and keep an eye out for any unauthorised endeavours.

In 1988, she unexpectedly withdrew permission from an acknowledged expert on Holmes, Michael Hardwick,

who had been publishing new adventures about the detective, saying that she wished people to read her father's original works instead.

In Britain, although she had no legal powers after the copyright had ended, she frequently reprimanded writers and film-makers who she felt had not been true to the spirit of her father's works, and her name became very familiar to the readers of the letters columns in national newspapers.

She took particular exception to the bizarre 1976 film *The Seven Per Cent Solution*, which had Nicol Williamson as Holmes seeking psychiatric counselling from Professor Freud. She was also infuriated by posters featuring two nude girls used to advertise a film version of *Brigadier Gerard*, which she said would have horrified her father, whose "pronounced sense of chivalry towards women was well known".

She saw considerable merit, however, in Jeremy Brett's performance as Holmes in *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes* at the Wyndhams Theatre and later in the television series he made. She wrote to the actor saying that he had correctly discerned that the secret of playing Holmes was to recognise his cold, unemotional centre.

Somewhat sacrilegiously, she admitted late in life that she admired other characters whom her father had created, such as Brigadier Gerard and Professor Challenger, every bit as much as Holmes, if not more. She always said that her

father's name mattered far more to her than any of the characters he created, and it was her sense of loyalty to him — rather than to the characters — that made her take her role so seriously.

Her father's portrait dominated the drawing room of her home in Chelsea and one of her most treasured possessions was her father's copy of the Holmes adventure *A Study in Scarlet*.

In 1955, she had the sensitive task of overseeing the transfer of the remains of both her parents from the grounds of their Sussex home to Minster churchyard in the New Forest, where her father had written *The White Company*.

She shared her father's belief in spiritualism, and, although she claimed to have once made contact with him through a medium, she resisted the temptation to do so again. "Life is for living," she explained. "My father taught me that you've got to stand on your own two feet."

She served as honorary ADC to the Queen from 1963 to 1966, a role she carried out with such discretion that the first most of her friends knew of it was when she made reference to it in her entry in *Who's Who*. She was appointed DBE in 1948 and advanced to DBE in 1963.

She married Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet in 1965 when she was 52 and he 73, but out of deference to her father she reverted to the Conan Doyle name following Sir Geoffrey's death in 1983. They had no children.

PROFESSOR CHARLES KENNEDY

Charles Kennedy, Professor of Economic Theory at the University of Kent, 1966-70, died on November 4 aged 74. He was born on February 9, 1923.

CHARLES KENNEDY was among the foremost economic theoreticians of his generation, and at a relatively young age made major contributions to welfare economics, monetary theory, open economy macroeconomics, capital and growth theory, and the theory of technical progress. In the 1950s he was one of a group of brilliant economists in Oxford including Sir Roy Harrod, Sir John Hicks and Jan Little, whom he inspired and was himself inspired by.

Kennedy's gifts were a deep intuition and insight into the nature of economic processes and behaviour, and the ability to express his insights in a lucid and rigorous way. He did not find writing easy, and sometimes his intuition was ahead of his understanding (a characteristic of many fine economists), but the end result was a clutch of pioneering papers in the top professional journals, all elegantly and concisely written. His 1964 paper on "Induced Bias in Innovation and the Theory of Distribution" will be one of



his lasting legacies. Every growth theorist knows Kennedy's invention of the "innovation possibility frontier" and the concept of Kennedy technical progress.

Charles Marius Kennedy was the youngest of five sons in an artistic and musical family living in London but with strong roots in Donegal and Cornwall. Both of his grandfathers were painters: Charles Napier Kennedy was a well-known portrait painter, while Thomas Millie Dow, one of

the "Glasgow Boys", was a founder of the St Ives School.

His father, George Kennedy, who mixed with the Bloomsbury Group, was John Maynard Keynes's favourite architect, and designed the Cambridge Arts Theatre and a number of buildings in Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

The young Kennedy was one of the earliest pupils at the new school established by Haim at Gordonstoun, where Prince Philip was a fellow pupil. There he enjoyed the

outdoor activities and learnt the cello; playing chamber music was to be a source of pleasure throughout his life. In 1940, at the age of 17, he went up to Oxford to read PPE at Balliol, where, under the tutelage of Thomas Balogh, he graduated with a first in two years. In 1942 he was selected to work under Lord Cherwell in the Prime Minister's statistical section of the Cabinet Office. In 1944, he joined the Merchant Navy and played a part in the Normandy landings.

His first academic post was as assistant lecturer in economics at University College, London in 1946, before his return to Oxford in 1947. From 1950 to 1961 he was a fellow of Queen's and a university lecturer. At Oxford he worked mainly on topics in monetary theory and welfare economics, though he showed early signs of interest in growth economics and technical progress which were later to make his name and establish his authority. He will be remembered most in this period for his incisive contributions to the then fashionable field of welfare economics.

In 1959 his life changed dramatically when he met and married Ann Cullis, a research chemist working in

Cambridge on the structure of haemoglobin. In 1961 the couple left Oxford for the University of the West Indies, where Kennedy had been appointed to a chair. Three sons and a daughter were born in quick succession, and Kennedy's productivity as an economist also flourished, with a spate of papers on technical progress, investment and growth, as well as new work in the field of open economy macroeconomics. He also became a director of the Bank of Jamaica.

Meanwhile in Britain the new universities were being established, and Kennedy was attracted to the foundation chair of economic theory at the University of Kent at Canterbury, which he took up in 1966. The university is college-based, and this suited Kennedy's Oxford style. He loved the Eliot College Senior Common Room and the small group teaching at which he excelled, but was not so happy in the big lecture theatre. He was too shy to captivate large student audiences, and it was partly this unease which induced him to take early retirement in 1970. A healthy dislike for bureaucracy and his dislike of petty administration were also factors.

His intellectual interests also changed. Disillusioned with the direction in which mainstream macroeconomics seemed to be going, he took refuge in business finance, especially the theory of options, warrants and convertibles. He was particularly appreciated by family and friends for his investment knowledge and expertise, which he always gave generously, and over many years he gave valuable financial advice to the University of Kent, which awarded him an honorary degree in 1984.

Kennedy inherited many of the artistic traits of his father and grandfather. He had a Bloomsbury demeanour and was an enthusiastic amateur painter. His early retirement gave him more time to enjoy his growing family and the opportunity to indulge his love of painting, gardening and travel. He is survived by his wife and four children.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN STRICKLAND

Lieutenant-Colonel John Strickland, MC, former Gurkha commander, died on October 22 aged 87. He was born on November 15, 1909.



JOHN STRICKLAND won his Military Cross when commanding "A" Company of the 2nd/4th The Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles in 1937 in Waziristan. At this time the "elusive troublemaker", the Faqir of Ipi, had worked up the Tori Khel and neighbouring tribes to action.

On May 12, 1937, having beaten off a sudden attack during a rainstorm, Strickland was ordered to capture two positions from which the tribesmen were pouring fire onto the 21st Punjab and the 4th Gurkhas. Leading his company with great dash and gallantry, he seized Sangor Hill with only one casualty, and then carried on the momentum to overwhelm the second position.

Strickland had joined the 2nd Battalion via Sandhurst. After a period as the first adjutant of the new Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, he returned to command "A" Company in the fighting against the Vichy French in Iraq and Syria in May 1941. The battalion was then posted to North Africa, and in June 1942 engaged in the defence of Bir Hacheim in Libya and the disastrous Battle of the Cauldron.

On June 3 Strickland was wounded by artillery fire, so luckily he was not present when the whole of what was left of the battalion was encircled by Rommel's troops three days later. Another two years as second-in-command followed, with many actions in Italy through to Perugia and Assisi, before he departed for Burma and the 4th Battalion.

Initially as second-in-command and then as commanding officer, he saw through the decisive battles for the taking of Mandalay Hill, and the final advance down the Mawchi Road in June 1945, when the battalion faced some of the toughest fighting of the entire

Burma campaign. For this battle Strickland was mentioned in dispatches.

During 1946 he was in temporary command of 98th Infantry Brigade, before the battalion returned to India for disbandment in October. One task remained, Strickland, accompanied by the two subalterns (junior commissioned officers), visited the hermit of Mandalay Hill, who presented the battalion with the Mandalay Pagoda Bell.

John Strickland was born in India, but the family returned to England after the death of his father from wounds sustained as an infantry officer in 1917. One of his mother's ancestors was Colonel John Vera O'Sullivan, who served Bonnie Prince Charlie in the '45 rebellion. His mother was totally engrossed by her Roman Catholic faith, and this prompted her to send her eldest son to a monastery in Ireland when he was 14. Finding the life uncongenial, he leapt over the wall, returning to England and Peter Symonds School in Winchester for a year. He spent another year working at Ideal Films before volunteering, underage, for the Rifle Brigade in India. The commanding officer, Colonel later General Renton, persuaded him that he should go to Sandhurst.

This began a number of surprise encounters with his

younger brother, B. V. M. Strickland. The elder brother had not maintained contact with his family, so when the younger Strickland passed into Sandhurst in 1932 he was taken aback to find his brother in the senior term. The younger Strickland was also commissioned for service in India, but resigned in 1935 over debts at cards. After some time in Sudan and two years as a doorman in Paris, he saw war coming and enlisted in the Royal Tank Corps. Nine years later, the two brothers met again by chance in 1944 in Italy. This time the older man was surprised to find that his younger brother was now a lieutenant-colonel.

For John Strickland, the partition of India brought the old life to an end. Returning to England in 1947 he tried the RAF Regiment and visited Rhodesia and then jumped at the chance to return to Pakistan for three years as an area commander. Returning to England finally in 1953, he became the managing clerk for a large chamber of barristers in Southampton, where he continued for nearly 25 years. But he regularly attended the annual reunions of the 4th Gurkhas at Stoke Poges.

He is survived by his wife, Alison, whom he married in 1944, when she was an officer in the WAAF, and their three daughters.

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SLAVERY

[It appears that the slave, Jean Pierre, had frequently absconded from the plantation to which he belonged, and had been more than once punished by his master, Amé Noel.]

The police by whom Jean Pierre was arrested recommended that he should be put into a place of safety, and that his master should immediately apply, on account of the turbulent indiscipline of his negro, for permission to transport him from the colony. He was placed by the orders of his master in a closed cell, and attached to the bedstead in such a way that he could neither stand nor lie, his legs being placed in an instrument of torture, called the *barre*, and his arms drawn up by a rope towards the roof.

In this situation Amé Noel and his mistress twice visited him, and beat him cruelly with sticks. Jean Pierre had become so ill that his keeper informed his master of the state of the prisoner, but was inhumanly told not to relax the rigour of his treatment, and to give him a glass of rum in order to increase his

ON THIS DAY

November 19, 1839

Although the master of 500 slaves got off lightly on a charge of murdering one of them, the Governor of the French colony of Guadeloupe expressed the indignation of "all impartial men in the colony".

torments. After five days' suffering not to be described, and during the whole of which time the poor slave could not move a muscle of his body, death came to his relief.

Proceedings on a charge of murder were taken against Amé Noel. The tribunal was composed of the president and two councillors. The assessors, on whose decision the fate of the prisoners depended, were four in number, all slave-owners themselves, and living in the same district as the accused, Amé.

who is 72 years of age, and partly of negro origin, but one of the richest colonists in Guadeloupe, treated the proceedings with great levity, and seemed astonished that his right to do as he pleased with his own should be disputed.

The Procureur-General pressed hard for a conviction. The counsel for the prisoners, however, contended that they had not exceeded the law in the punishment of their victim, and called upon the assessors to believe the statement of Amé Noel, who, though he confessed to having inflicted torture, denied having had the intention of taking away life. When the trial, which lasted five days, was over, the assessors returned a verdict of "acquittal" on the charge of murder, and merely imposed a fine of 300f, for an infringement of article 338 of the penal code in the treatment of his slave!

When the verdict was delivered, loud shouts of "Bravo" were uttered in the hall of the Court of Assizes, which was filled by slave-owners.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1997

Troubleshooter takes over top job

Laura Ashley directors oust Iverson

By Jason Nisse



Thornor: public support

THE 30-month reign of Ann Iverson as chief executive of Laura Ashley came to an abrupt end yesterday when she and James Walsh, the finance director, were ousted from the troubled clothes and furnishings seller.

Ms Iverson left the company immediately after being told on Monday night that she was being replaced as chief executive by David Hoare, the management consultant brought in to sort out the company's critical cash flow and stock supply problems.

"Ann understands the decision and knows this is part of the recovery plan," said Stephen Cox, the group's company secretary, yesterday. "The situation as it stood was simply not acceptable."

After picking up more than £2.2 million in salary and bonus payments since she became chief executive in June 1995, Ms Iverson will receive £450,000 compensation for loss of office.

Mr Walsh, who will stay until a replacement is found, is entitled to a £300,000 pay off.

These will be paid despite Laura Ashley's critical financial problems, which have seen it plunge into losses, breach the covenants on its £50 million of loans and enter discussions with its bankers, led by HSBC Holdings and Bank of Nova Scotia. The retailer's shares fell 1p to 45p yesterday, having lost nearly four fifths of their value in a year and fallen 20 per cent

since the appointment of Mr Hoare's consultancy company, Tallisman Management, in the summer. Mr Thornton is understood to have asked a colleague whether the City considered the mess at Laura Ashley to be his fault. The answer was: "Not yet, but if you do not do something soon it will be."

Since Tallisman came in a catalogue of problems have emerged. These include failing to deliver popular lines to stores, supplying too much of slow selling products, inability to identify how much money is being made on many items and failing to keep track of the cash position.

However, the main source of problems identified by Tallisman was the US, where Ms Iverson had embarked on an ambitious expansion plan. This has been stopped in its tracks. Laura Ashley has surrendered the leases on its new stores and is exploring whether it can sell the business.

Mr Hoare has decided to stop other initiatives, which include new ranges of home furnishings and clothing for next year. He is also trying to reduce the influence of the Ashley family on the company and is understood to have said he may quit if Sir Bernard, who is a non-executive director, interferes in day-to-day decision-making. City analysts said Mr Hoare is "a turnaround man" and is unlikely to stay at the helm long term.

False prophet, page 28
Commentary, page 29



Ann Iverson will leave Laura Ashley with £450,000 compensation for loss of office

Beckett blocks £365m disposal by Sears

By Chris Ayres

MARGARET BECKETT, the President of the Board of Trade, yesterday dealt a severe blow to Sears, by blocking the troubled retailer's £365 million sale of its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods.

Sears immediately said it would seek grounds for a judicial review of Mrs Beckett's decision. The move sent its shares down 3 1/2p to 54 1/2p.

The sale — which was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in April — was blocked on the grounds that it would give Littlewoods and Great Universal Stores, its main rival, more than 80 per cent of the agency mail order market.

Sears had agreed to sell the business for £365 million as part of its restructuring plan. The strategy, which aims to return cash to shareholders and demerging its shoe business and demerging its Selfridges department store, will now have to be reviewed.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, said: "We will retain Freemans and focus on continuing to improve its performance with the intention of demerging it within two years."

Ian Cheshire, commercial director of Sears, would not rule out the possibility of a sale. However, N Brown, a previous bidder, said it would not raise its offer price, believed to have been less than £335 million.

The decision also came as a blow to Littlewoods, which had planned to use Freemans to boost its market share to about 25 per cent. But yesterday it attempted to shrug off the setback.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FTSE 100	4848.4	(-21.5)
Yield	3.34%	
FTSE All share	2290.95	(-8.44)
Nikkei	16726.57	(+143.25)
New York	7680.78	(-17.44)
Dow Jones	941.81	(-4.39)
S&P Composite		
US BONDS		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
Yield	6.67%	(6.67%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	117 1/8%	(117 1/8%)
Rate (Dec)		
FOREIGN EXCHANGE		
New York	1.6963*	(1.6962)
London	1.6941	(1.6928)
DM	2.9226	(2.9346)
FF	9.7875	(9.8270)
Sfr	2.5780	(2.5865)
Yen	212.88	(212.90)
£ Index	100.8	(104.1)
COMMODITIES		
Oil	1.7254*	(1.7310)
DM	5.7767*	(5.7980)
Sfr	1.4032*	(1.4065)
Yen	125.80*	(125.65)
£ Index	105.7	(105.5)
Tokyo close Yen	125.54	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$19.20	(\$19.22)
GOLD		
London close	\$305.55	(\$305.65)

Calling
Vodafone, Britain's largest mobile telephone group, stepped up the price war with its rivals by cutting charges and increasing the amount of free calls offered to its customers. Page 28

Dairy battle
Northern Foods is determined to defend its share of the market in supplying milk to the main supermarket chains despite making little money from the business. Page 29

Borrowing target to be revised down by Brown

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

GORDON BROWN is set to revise downwards the Government's borrowing target in next week's Pre-Budget Report after the latest figures showed the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) was on course to undershoot Treasury forecasts.

The Treasury was able to make a net debt repayment of £5.7 billion in October, while the September PSBR was also revised downwards by £200 million to £2.9 billion.

In the first seven months of this financial year, government borrowing totalled £2.6 billion, compared with £11.2 billion at the same time last year. Economists said the Government is likely to undershoot its current forecast target of £10.9 billion by around £3 billion and will consequently revise its own forecast next month.

The improvement in the PSBR has been led by tight controls on government spending.

Botnar tax decision due today

By Jason Nisse

THE Inland Revenue will learn today whether it has won £100 million in back taxes from charitable trusts controlled by Octav Botnar, the fugitive former Nissan UK chief.

The High Court ruling comes two weeks after the Revenue dropped its four-year prosecution of Mr Botnar for tax fraud, claiming the 84-year-old tycoon, who lives in Switzerland, was too ill to stand trial.

However, the Revenue is still pursuing Mr Botnar's charitable trusts for £68 million of tax plus interest of more than £30 million, claiming tax was payable because Mr Botnar could potentially have benefited from the trusts. Mr Botnar won the case before the Revenue's Special Commissioners last year but the Revenue appealed to the High Court on a legal technicality. Mr Botnar has vowed to go to the Court of Appeal if he loses today.

Liddell threat to put mis-sellers out of business

By Caroline Merrell, Gavin Lumsden and Susan Emmett

THE Government threatened yesterday to sack senior life insurance executives and put their companies out of business if they fail to resolve the pensions mis-selling scandal.

In her strongest action so far, Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "I seriously envisage a situation where companies are imperilled. If they do not get a move on they are in danger of being put out of business."

She went on: "There is still a raft of companies that are walking away from this mess."

More than 40 companies, including some of the UK's biggest life insurance firms, have been struggling to compensate hundreds of thousands of people who were encouraged to give up their rights to company schemes in favour of taking out personal pensions. The total compensation bill is expected to be well above £4 billion. Ms Liddell is becoming increasingly impatient with the insurance companies' lack of progress. Much of the mis-selling occurred at the end of the Eighties.

Not content with fining and publicly reprimanding firms, Ms Liddell said yesterday: "I will continue to look for ways to maximise pressure on the industry."

She is particularly annoyed with companies that seem to be using the review process as an excuse to sell more policies.

The Economic Secretary added that one way the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) could take action against senior executives is to exclude them from the list of registered individuals, which it is planning to introduce next year.

The named individuals will then not be able to work in the industry without the necessary authorisation.

Post Office seals Co-op Bank deal

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

A LANDMARK agreement sealed yesterday by the Post Office and the Co-operative Bank has created Britain's biggest network of banking outlets.

From next week, Co-op Bank customers will be able to cash cheques and deposit funds at any of the Post Office's 15,500 outlets in England and Wales. Similar plans for Scotland are under preparation.

The nationwide roll-out of the service comes after a 12-month trial at 1,500 post offices in northwest England,

North Wales and the Midlands. During the trial, the Co-op Bank logged an average of 25,000 transactions per month, two thirds of them deposits.

Stuart Sweetman, managing director of Post Office Counters, said that the agreement was non-exclusive and so would not interfere with a similar trial by Lloyds TSB, announced last month, or with the Post Office's relationship with Girobank, owned by Alliance & Leicester.

Mr Sweetman said that the Post Office would continue to extend its financial services by acting as a distributor for banks and insurers, following a "best-of-breed" approach to partnerships.

He said: "We don't believe we have reached the limits on our arrangements with financial institutions. There are discussions going on with other institutions of varying sizes."

The Post Office will receive a fee for each transaction carried out on behalf of the Co-op Bank. Boosting the current range of 171 services would enable the Post Office to save from closure many smaller outlets in which the postmaster is rewarded according to transaction levels, Mr Sweetman said.

Initially, only the one million customers holding a current account at the Co-op Bank will be permitted to use the service. However, Mervyn Pedely, the bank's chief executive, did not rule out additional services. "From now on, we can offer our customers the biggest banking network in the UK," he said.

The deal vastly increases the Co-op Bank's scope to deal face to face with its customers, as 28 million people visit a post office each week. At present, the bank has fewer than 150 standalone branches, plus 200 banking points in Co-op stores and access to 14,000 Link automatic teller machines.

Barclays Bank staff are to stage a one-day strike on Christmas Eve in a dispute about the introduction of a performance-related pay scheme that unions say will lead to a pay freeze.

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HOW DOES ARDBEG TASTE TO PETER IRVINE?



Peter Irvine is the author of Scotland the Best.

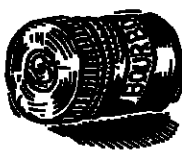
A lot of



(peat)

+

a suspicion of



(bourbon)

+

a degree of



(complexity)

+

a hint of



(smokiness)

+

with lashings of



(lily)

+



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Saviour proved to be false prophet

Jon Ashworth on how Ann Iverson failed to live up to expectations during her brief reign at Laura Ashley

BACK in the summer, Ann Iverson appeared in *Vogue* magazine wearing a black leather coat (and little else), and growling: "All those City guys love to think of me in black leather, so I may as well live up to expectations."

This presumption, if true, is the only thing to have lived up to expectations concerning Ms Iverson, who has finally been shown the door at Laura Ashley after 28 months at the helm. Lauded for her success in turning round Bhs and Mothercare, Michigan-born Ms Iverson, 53, has singularly failed to impress, parting company with several top aides and presiding over three profit warnings this year alone.

Her reign will not be forgotten in a hurry. Ms Iverson was hailed as Laura Ashley's saviour when she swept back onto the British scene in July 1995. She

had returned to America a year earlier, after four successful years with Storehouse, but was tempted back with a performance-linked package worth more than £5 million over three years.

The eponymous Laura Ashley crafted her first prints on the kitchen table of her flat in Fimlico, central London, in 1953, and built a fortune on floral cotton and chintz. She died in September 1985 after falling down an unlit stairwell at her daughter's cottage in the Cotswolds, where the family had gathered to celebrate her 60th birthday.

The company went ahead with its stock market flotation, coming to the

market in December 1985 in an issue that was 34 times oversubscribed. The shares soared to a 59p premium, touching 194p on the first day's trading. They closed at 45p yesterday, having slid steadily from a level of 207p last December.

Ms Iverson arrived in the UK in early 1990, fresh from Bloomingdale's in New York, and lived up to expectations. She revived fortunes at Bhs and then put the "fun" back into Mothercare, with innovations such as talking trees and singing clocks.

Her arrival at Laura Ashley was greeted with near hysteria in the City,

which saw in Ms Iverson a no-nonsense manager with a proven track record. But the months that followed brought successive setbacks, culminating in the loss of three female aides and a crumbling share price. Ms Iverson came to be painted as a workaholic control freak, quick to take umbrage when her decisions were questioned. There was also talk of a rift with Sir Bernard Ashley, who speaks for just over 35 per cent of the shares.

Today, Laura Ashley is again under new management, and Ms Iverson is facing an uncertain future. Like Liam Strong at Sears, she has discovered to her cost just how fickle a paramour the City can be. The prospect of a multimillion-pound pay-off should help to ease her embarrassment. It will certainly buy a few leather coats.

Vodafone tariff cuts likely to 'get the market going'

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

VODAFONE fired the first salvo in a new price war in the mobile phones market, cutting some tariffs up to 15 per cent.

Chris Gent, chief executive, said that from January 1 customers would get five more minutes a month of free calls with no increase in the rental. At the same time peak-rate call charges will be cut 12.5 per cent and off-peak rates more than 15 per cent. The package of call charge reductions also includes a 20 per cent increase in free calls for small businesses and provision of international calls at up to 20 per cent cheaper than BT's rate card.

"This is a major revamp and it should get the market going," said Mr Gent who insisted that the price changes were aimed primarily at increasing mobile's present 14 per cent penetration of the UK population rather than the company's rivals — Cellnet, Orange and One2One.

Last night the rival operators played down any suggestion that Vodafone's action would trigger a mobile phone price war in the UK. Orange said Vodafone's tariff changes simply brought Vodafone's charges down towards their existing levels.

"We are delighted Vodafone is copying us," said one Orange executive. One2One said it was happy that its charges remained competitive.

Cellnet, which has 37 per cent of the market to Vodafone's 39 per cent said: "We



Chris Gent insists that the price changes are aimed primarily at increasing the market penetration of mobile phones

believe our existing tariffs are extremely competitive already and we have no plans to change our tariffs.

Vodafone shares fell 15½p to 341½p yesterday. Orange fell 9p to 242p.

The pricing initiative came as Vodafone announced an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £297.5 million in the half year to September 30. Turnover rose 51 per cent to £1.16 billion — 32 per cent when the consolida-

tion of Vodafone's Greek business is excluded. Earnings per share rose 30 per cent to 6.64p before exceptional reorganisation costs and investment disposals. The interim dividend rises to 2.71p a share from 2.36p.

Vodafone's total customer base is now more than 4.6 million, taking account of minority stakes, and there was a record increase of 385,000 in the six months. Mr Gent said

yesterday that the new pricing plan would be revenue neutral if there was a 5 per cent increase in calls and a 5 per cent growth in subscribers. Even if that did not happen, Mr Gent said, "the payoff will come in later years."

Analysts are now looking for pre-tax profits of about £610 million for the full year. Vodafone also announced yesterday the appointment of two new non-executive direc-

tors from next year — Alan Broers, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, and Sir David Scholey, senior adviser to SBC Warburg Dillon Read and a director of the Bank of England and a governor of the BBC.

They replace Sir William Barlow and Sir Robert Clark who both retire from the board at the end of March.

Tempos, page 30

C&W to create 1,000 customer service jobs

CABLE & Wireless Communications, the UK's largest cable company, will today announce more than 1,000 new jobs to improve service in the cable communications industry. The new jobs will come mainly in Glasgow (700) and Manchester (200), where a further 150 telesales staff will be taken on.

The aim is to set up new regional customer service call centres. The cable industry has been criticised for poor levels of customer service. CWC, a group put together from Mercury Communications, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Nynex Communications, is spending about £50 million this year on improving customer service.

Coal levy under fire

COAL industry campaigners seeking a levy on electricity bills to support the fuel were criticised by consumers yesterday. The Government was urged to ignore pleas for a levy to help coal, or for any other cause, such as energy efficiency. Yvonne Constance, head of the Electricity Consumers Committee, said: "Any coal levy, like all costs, hits lowest-income consumers hardest and we urge the Government to recognise this simple fact of life."

Brewer shows strength

MANSFIELD BREWERY, the regional brewer and pub operator, overcame tough trading conditions to lift interim pre-tax profits 9.3 per cent to £11.5 million. Its managed estate lifted sales 7.4 per cent to £41.7 million, while turnover from its tenanted estate fell 2.6 per cent to £9.6 million. Turnover from brewing and brands was up 18.2 per cent to £36.8 million. Earnings per share advanced to 12.86p (11.6p) and an interim dividend of 2.35p (2.1p) will be paid on December 18.

BG sells German assets

A CLEARANCE sale by BG of non-core businesses continued yesterday with the disposal of its German assets. The company sold all of its German business to Verbundnetz Gas of Leipzig in a deal that observers expect to exceed £80 million. BG, which runs Transco, the gas pipeline network, set out plans earlier this year to sell off periphery interests. Over the past few weeks it has sold its interests in the Irish Sea and a pipeline detection business.

MGM sues rival studio

METRO-GOLDWYN-MEYER is suing Sony for \$150 million (£88 million) over the making of a rival James Bond film in an escalating row between the Hollywood studios. MGM lawyers have compiled a formidable legal arsenal in a Los Angeles court, including charges of copyright infringement, unfair competition, misappropriation of trade secrets and breach of contract. The row springs from disputed rights to the 1965 *Thunderball* film. Sony declined to comment. (Bloomberg)

Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy
Australia \$	2.53	Bank	2.36	Malta	0.881	Bank	0.822
Belgium Sfr	21.55	Canada \$	19.80	Netherlands Gld	3.492	Denmark Kr	8.187
Canada \$	63.44	Denmark Kr	58.48	New Zealand \$	2.26	France Ffr	2.21
Cyprus Cyp	2,550	France Ffr	2,232	Norway Kr	12.82	Germany Dm	1.158
Denmark Kr	0.801	Germany Dm	0.820	Portugal Esc	310.63	Italy Lira	203.61
France Ffr	11.70	Italy Lira	10.81	Spain Ptas	257.76	Japan Yen	163.61
Germany Dm	8.25	Japan Yen	8.48	Sweden Kr	13.57		
Greece Dr	10.28	Sweden Kr	8.48	Switzerland Ffr	2.53		
Hong Kong \$	4.04	Switzerland Ffr	2.53	Turkey Lira	3,045.1		
Ireland P	13.91	Turkey Lira	1,791	USA \$	1.00		
Israel Shk	1.21	USA \$	1.00				
Italy Lira	1.18						
Japan Yen	6.35						
	227.85						

Notes for email dissemination: bank rates supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

De La Rue shares rally after profit beats forecasts

By ADAM JONES

SHARES in De La Rue, which lost their "go-go" status after banknote printing margins fell, rallied slightly yesterday after interim results exceeded the City's expectations.

De La Rue made profits of £56.3 million (£60.3 million) before tax in the six months to September 30.

The 1997 figures, however, would have been £64.9 million at constant exchange rates. De La Rue also absorbed a £1.7 million loss from the newly acquired Phillips smartcard subsidiary. The shares closed at 410p, still adrift of their high of £10.52 in 1995 but up 12½p on the day.

The profits include a £7.8 million contribution from Camelot, the lottery operator, up £700,000 on the same period last year. Total turnover fell 0.9 per cent to £378.4 million.

Jeremy Marshall, chief executive, said the manufacture of cash-handling equipment for banks is becoming an increasingly large activity for De La Rue, contributing about 50 million profit, with development spend running at about £18 million a year now.

New products currently being tested by banks include cash recyclers, which allow tellers to feed money into the pool of cash that serves hole-in-the-wall machines, reduc-

ing the amount of working capital that sits idle in these automatic telling machines.

He would not say whether margins in banknote printing are stabilising after an overcapacity-fuelled fall, although he did say rivals face higher labour costs that could constrain further competition. The security paper and print division's margin was 18.6 per cent in the interim period, down from 21.2 per cent in the first half of 1996.

De La Rue received negligible banknote business from Eastern European countries in the latest interim period. An interim dividend of 7.5p (7.5p) will be paid on January 16.

Tempos, page 30



Marshall: quiet on margins

Camelot hits jackpot amid talk of rival

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator, has turned in another bumper rise in profits, amid speculation that the Post Office may pitch for the lottery contract when it comes up for tender in 2001.

Camelot's pre-tax profits rose by 10.5 per cent, to £34.8 million, in the 24 weeks to September 13, in spite of a levelling in sales of Camelot Instant. Total sales climbed 17.2 per cent, to £2.45 billion, generating £696 million for good causes. A £20 million dividend is shared between the five Camelot shareholders — Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GTEch, ICL and Racal Electronics.

The Post Office is the largest single National Lottery retailer, selling both on-line tickets and Instant through its 19,000-plus outlets. It would face no restrictions in bidding for the lottery licence, which the Government would like to see in the hands of a non-profit operator. A Post Office spokesman said that it is constantly looking at new services and opportunities.

Camelot's sales were boosted by the mid-week lottery draw, begun in February. Profits after tax continued to represent just under 1 per cent of overall sales, at £23.9 million.

Four listed for loan book

By RICHARD MILES

FOUR foreign banks are among bidders shortlisted for the controversial sale of the Government's £1.6 billion student loan book.

The ten initial bidders have been whittled down to four, including Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank which has teamed up with Barclays, JP Morgan and UBS, the Swiss giant, in partnership with NatWest Markets.

The fourth bidder Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the investment banking arm of Germany's biggest bank, has formed

a consortium with Sallie Mae, the largest purchaser of student loans in the US.

NM Rothschild, the adviser on the sale, said the successful bidder would pay the £1.6 billion face value of the loan book, but receive a Government subsidy to offset the shortfall between the interest rate paid on student loans and a commercial rate.

Charles Key, director of NM Rothschild, said the four shortlisted groups would have to provide bids by January 16, based on what level of Gov-

ernment subsidy they thought appropriate. "The key to winning will be the ability to reduce this subsidy," he added, that the Government intended to put a further £1.5 billion of student loans up for sale in the next financial year.

Bidders must also decide whether they would want to administer the loan book, pass on its management to a third party, or leave it with the Student Loans Company. A Bill currently before Parliament will allow more rigorous collection methods.

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BOC expects early completion of Ohmeda

Taylor Nelson pays £137m for French rival

STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

Dealers blame quiet day on new trading system

LIMITATIONS of the London Stock Exchange's new order book trading system were being blamed for another day of relatively quiet trading yesterday, as London prices eased back in spite of steady performance in global markets.

Dealers looking to spice up trading in FTSE 100 stocks said the City is taking its time to settle down to the computerised system. Even after a 3 per cent rise in Japan's Nikkei 225 index, dealers looking to shift larger baskets of stocks said large orders found few buyers.

Now that no contact with any other broker is needed for the largest stocks, many say their counterparts are left trying to second-guess the motives behind the orders. The result: scrappy selling, by normal City standards, which saw the FTSE 100 drop 21.6 points to 4,845.4.

One dealer said: "It's a difficult market to deal in now. We put up large deals, but there's nothing on the other side." "This means we end up either holding fire or buying and selling in small amounts."

The strongest FTSE 100 performer was Williams, whose shares rose 37p to 590p. The shares now stand just 3p away from a three-year high, but the rise was attributed to stock shortages caused by the technicians.

NatWest was the next best FTSE performer, up 12½p to 883p on hopes that it may be about to announce news on its sale of NatWest Markets. The shares were still 13 per cent off last month's high.

Enterprise Oil led the 20 FTSE fallers, dropping 43p to 609p on a warning that it is unlikely to produce more oil next year than this year. Traders said this stemmed from problems in finding enough drilling rigs. Such jitters went on to knock Cairn Energy down 6p to 491p and Lasso down 6p to 275p.

The start to the results season was the main driving force behind the rest of the day's trading, with a total 671 million shares changing hands. Vodafone took centre stage, falling 15½p to 341½p after it launched a series of tariff reductions. Although it denied starting a price war, shares of Orange fell 9p to 242p, while Securicor softened 3p to 281p.

A similarly cool reception was given to British Steel, down 5p to 145p after its



Hubert Reid, left, and Ted Tuppen, chief executive, of Enterprise Inns, up 12p as average pub income rose

interim results. The shares now stand dangerously close to a three-year low, with the price threatened as the pound gains strength.

A 23 per cent rise in profits from Great Portland hoisted its shares 10p to 255p, after it beat market expectations. Other strong results came from Perpetual, 37½p stronger at £22.35, Chamberlain & Hill,

up 25p at 195p and Marshalls, up 8½p at 141½p. Enterprise Inns, headed by Hubert Reid, chairman, firmed 12p to 261½p after lifting its average inn income by 9 per cent to return full results in line with expectations.

The recent climb in the shares of Northern Foods ended on profit-taking, as it fell 7p to 260½p in response to

its financial results. It had climbed from 230p in the space of three weeks.

Safeway found itself on the FTSE sell list, down 7p at 394p on fears of weak results today. Rival Tesco gained 6p to 490p on hopes that it may have picked up whatever Safeway may have lost.

Concerns over today's trading statement from Glaxo Wellcome saw its shares shed 11p to 1246p. Meyer International, up 3p at 376p, is expected to report better news with today's interim results.

News that Allianz, the German insurer, has made a bid for AGF of France sent ripples through the shares of insurers. It transpires that City dealers had fancied Allianz bidding for a large British insurer. General Accident fell 2½p to 981½p and Commercial Union eased 7p to 765p.

Few other takeover rumours surfaced during the day, leaving dealers to speculate over which upgrades the analysts may be pushing. James Capel was said to have gone easy on Lombar, up 3½p at 91½p, remaining positive on the company although downgrading recommendation. Arriva, the company formerly known as Cowie Group, added 10p to 365p after Panmure Gordon said its true value was at least 420p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, IOC International added 6p to 162½p on talk that Merrill Lynch is preparing a buy note on the telecom equipment maker. Electronic Retail Systems fell 15p to 380p after returning sharply increased losses, but dealers say the fall is overdue and ignores the company's recent acquisition, where it has all but cornered the market in electronic supermarket shelf-tags. Panic selling of Reflect shares fell 8½p to a new low of 55p.

GILT-EDGED: Trading warmed up slightly in the futures pit, with some selling at the long end taking the Life Futures down ten notches at £117½. Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased ½p to £100½. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 dropped ½p to £167½. NEW YORK: Shares were little changed in quiet early trading as the market took a breather from Monday's sharp gains. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 17,441 points lower at 7,680.78.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7680.78 (-17.44)
S&P Composite 941.81 (-4.39)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 10726.57 (+443.25)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10245.18 (-174.57)

Amsterdam:
ASA Index 680.01 (+2.98)

Sydney:
ASX 2468.3 (-19.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3833.47 (+38.88)

Singapore:
Straits 1688.01 (+4.54)

Brussels:
General 13558.60 (+68.14)

Paris:
CAC-40 2782.61 (+56.2)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1155.20 (+0.30)

London:
FT 30 3147.4 (-15.4)
FTSE 100 4845.4 (-21.6)
FTSE 250 4623.4 (-2.4)
FTSE 350 2340.7 (-4.7)
FTSE Euroshare 100 2506.39 (+0.06)
FTSE All-Share 2200.99 (+4.44)
FTSE Non Financials 2233.04 (+1.61)
FTSE Financials 130.56 (-0.02)
FTSE Govt Secs 99.13 (-0.29)

SEAO Volume 671,400
US 1,694.2 (+0.007)
German Mark 2,923.2 (-0.0118)
Exchange Index 103.13 (+0.3)

Bank of England official rate (4pm) 14.825
ECU 1.2006
LSDR 195.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1997-100
RFX 157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mgmt Zero 100% - 1/4
BCH Group 199 - 3/4
BG 29 - 1/2
Buckland Inv Wts 17% - 1/2
Buckland Inv 17% - 1/2
Cresco International 153% - 1/2
Forefront Tech Wts 5% - 1/2
Forefront Tech 100 - 1/2
Gyrus Group 147% - 1/2
Holmes Place 183% - 1/2
Lathways (155) 170% - 1/2
Metalsource 86% - 1/2
Microplan Systems 53% - 1/2
NSB Retail Sys 181% - 1/2
Newsquest (25) 238% - 1/2
Northern Recruit 121% - 1/2
Nottingham Frst (70) 30% - 1/2
SHL Group 281% - 1/2
Workplace Tech 207% - 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Azian n/p (37) 25% - 1/2
Meyer Int n/p (36) 15% - 1/2
Recognis Sys n/p (21) 1% - 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Chamberlain Hill 195p (+25p)
Williams 590p (+37p)
Philip Harris 285p (+12p)
Safeway 394p (+7p)
Great Portland 255p (+10p)
Prism Rail 333p (+13p)
Robert Walters 435p (+14p)
De La Rue 410p (+12p)
Adam & Harvey 340p (+10p)
Liberty 335p (+10p)

FALLS:
Enterprise 609p (-43p)
Gibson 148p (-9p)
Safeway 394p (-7p)
J Cropper 258p (-12p)
Vodafone 341p (-15p)
Asot Holdings 267p (-11p)
Stanley Leisure 247p (-10p)
RMC Group 901p (-33p)
Eurotherm 357p (-11p)
Bullock 350p (-20p)
Gaskell 350p (-10p)
Hays 703p (-19p)
Germoragie 'A' 860p (-25p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Metal fatigue

PIERRE JUNGELS, the chief executive of Enterprise Oil, told a conference in Norway that equipment and skill shortages would send away the best-laid production plans of the world's oil industry. He also let slip the news that oil production at Enterprise was seriously at risk of his own forecasts. Enterprise was sparing in providing further details but it seems that the problem stems from Italy, where progress has been stymied by bureaucracy. The market's verdict was a 20 per cent cut in volumes and a 10 to 15 per cent reduction in earnings.

Once again, Enterprise has shot itself in the foot, delivering a difficult message to investors in an off-hand manner. More interesting is whether Mr Jungels has made a valid point in addressing the wider issue of over-optimism in current oil production forecasts.

Statistics from the International Energy Agency and other organisations suggest he may be right and the industry could be riding for a fall. The IEA forecasts a 2 million barrel-per-day increase in non-Opec production this year, largely based on a bottom-up compilation of individual company forecasts. This has proved wide of the mark and the likely out-turn is half that level of growth. The cause of the shortfall is in part the cycle of well maintenance in the North Sea and elsewhere but shortages of equipment, the surging price of rigs and people are taking their toll. This is an industry that has cut its cost base to the bone while at the same time increasing performance targets in ever more demanding physical environments. The concept of metal fatigue may apply just as well to organisations as steel rigs. Prepare for more downgrades.

De La Rue

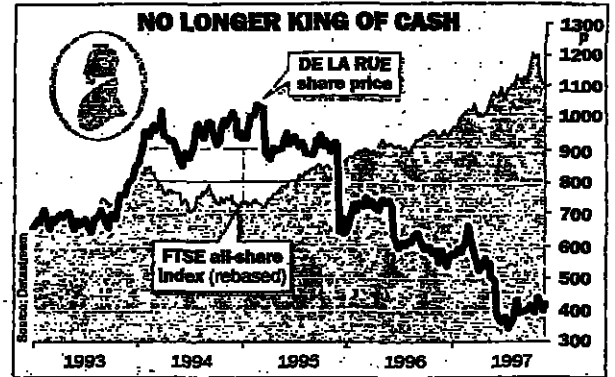
THE fall to the share price was barely warranted. Operating profits were disappointing, including an ominous 31 per cent decline in bank notes. The only bright spark was from De La Rue Giori, a printing equipment business which did a big deal in India. One-off gains from an associate will do little to warm the hearts of shareholders.

Two or three good years and lottery hype tended to obscure the problems at De La Rue and the market is now being confronted by reality. The bank notes business is volatile and despite its 60 per cent share of the market, De La Rue cannot control pricing. Less cost-efficient competitors enjoy the support of their central banks, enabling them to undercut De La Rue which yesterday boasted that it won the largest share of an

Indian overspill order.

At what price, one wonders? In theory De La Rue should quit low-margin, low-risk printing and focus on more sophisticated products, but the high fixed costs of the presses force De La Rue to bid for volume. De La Rue's 18-20 per cent margins are a credit to its strategy of manufacturing in the Third

World, but it needs those margins to generate an adequate return on high investment. Indeed, spending is increasing on new products, reducing the rate of cash generation. De La Rue needs new products to grow its business long-term, but that leaves the earnings outlook poor and the shares unattractive.



Vodafone

VODAFONE's three UK mobile telephone rivals were decidedly sniffling last night about the group's plans to give 33 per cent more value to subscribers. The threesome spoke as one in proclaiming that tariffs were already exceptionally competitive and no further action was required. No trace of a price war in the offing, not even a price war. We shall see.

The problem for the average consumer lies in the fact that they would need a Cray super-computer to calculate which mobile phone package offered the best deal, never mind questions of quality and reliability.

Vodafone's strategy will create friends among consumers, if enemies in the industry. The consumer can only win if the company with the largest subscriber base brings its prices down markedly. The market will be a more competitive one as a result, but continuing simpli-

fication of tariffs would also help development.

After all, penetration of mobile phones in the UK at 14 per cent still has some way to go. In Scandinavia, overall penetration stands at 35 per cent and Finland tops 40 per cent. It was perhaps inevitable that the City knocked Vodafone back by 15½p yesterday, to 341½p, and signs of price conflict are an indication that this industry should be left alone.

Vosper

VOSPER Thornycroft's shift away from shipbuilding has not yet earned it the sort of rating enjoyed by the support service companies it seeks to emulate, despite a recent run on the back of bid speculation.

More than half its turnover will soon be generated from non-shipbuilding activities, such as naval training and ship maintenance. The aim is less dependence on warships. A good thing, given the dearth of buyers. The Ministry of De-

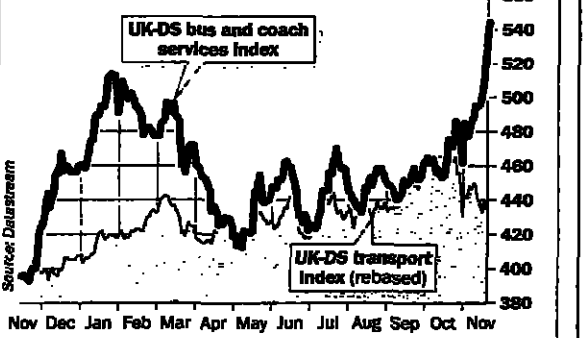
fence is waiting for the defence review, expected by Vospers between Christmas and Easter, and the Middle East countries have been in no rush to expand their navies, though this may change with the tension in Iraq.

Vospers has more than £100 million cash, which could fund an acquisition to take it further into support services territory and reshape further the Southampton company. Until it does so, the forward p/e of about 13 for the current year is unlikely to change much, unless it becomes the target of serious bid interest.

GEC — the owner of the Jarrow and VSEL shipyards and the name most mentioned in bid speculation — would have on British shipbuilding, it is by no means certain that the Government would allow GEC to move for Vospers, in spite of its positive noises on defence consolidation.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

GIVE WAY TO BUSES



AFTER a summer in the doldrums, shares of bus and coach companies are reviving as the City comes round to the view that the Labour Government will prove no threat to the new bus barons.

Pre-election hints about renationalisation had the City fearing that the likes of National Express — the most heavily subsidised bus company — could suffer from fresh regulation.

Now, as the transport White Paper approaches, the mood in Whitehall seems to favour "quality partnerships", where com-

panies order new vehicles and in return the Government paints new bus lanes on the roads.

FirstBus, Stagecoach and Cowie, now renamed Arriva, are finding that they are needed to draw up Labour's new transport policy.

Also, if the Government has any hope of privatising London Underground, it needs all the friends in the industry that it can get.

While this wooing continues, the shares of bus and coach companies will continue to outperform the transport sector.

BRITISH FUNDS

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Abstract



A success story

The Fortis group consists of more than 100 independently operating companies. It includes such familiar names in the Benelux as AG 1824, ASL-
CGER, AMEV, MeesPierson and VSB. Each company is given the freedom to
serve its own market in its own way. Consequently, differences in corporate and
national cultures are seen not as an obstacle but as a stimulus to build on the
already strong position of most Fortis companies. The result is a fast-growing,
successful group which is active from Europe and the United States to Asia,
Australia and the Caribbean.

Continued growth

Fortis' ambitions, however, extend further. Which is why all Fortis companies work hard to attain

organic growth, often sharing experience and knowledge within the group. Moreover, Fortis monitors

acquisition possibilities closely. It is strong enough financially to make the most of every opportunity. And will continue to do so, as long as such acquisitions are capable of making a contribution to profits in the near future.

This focused growth strategy is designed to help maintain an impressive record of profitability and growth. For the Fortis group and over 34,000 Fortis personnel, there are still bridges to cross. Which is why Fortis will continue to seek new challenges.

More information?

In the Netherlands, call: 31 (0)30 257 65 49. In Belgium, call: 32 (0)2 220 9349.

Or visit the Fortis Internet site at: <http://www.fortis.com>

Notes

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Shares ease on thin volume

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Fixing unfair dismissal damages

Tribunal loses appeal jurisdiction

Ministry of Defence v Wheeler
Same v Donald
Same v Nixon
Same v Joslyn

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment November 5]
In determining damages for unfair dismissal in the case of a woman dismissed from the Armed Forces for pregnancy, the proper approach was to take the sum which she would have earned in the Forces, deduct from that the amount she had or should have earned elsewhere, and then discount the net sum by a percentage to reflect the chance that she might have left the Armed Forces in any event.

Where there were different percentage chances for different parts of the period, they should be applied cumulatively, although tribunals should be alive to the possibility that in later periods there might be a greater chance than in earlier periods that the woman would have remained in the Services.

The Court of Appeal so held when (i) dismissing an appeal by the Ministry of Defence and cross-applications by Deirdre Wheeler and Stephanie Lynn Donald from the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Kay, Mr A. C. Blyth and Mrs R. Chapman) (*The Times* December 22, 1995) [1996] ICR 554 of appeals by the ministry against the level of damages imposed by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Morison, Mrs E. Hart and Mr R. H. Phipps) on June 24, 1996 of appeals by the ministry against the level of damages imposed by

industrial tribunals in cases brought by Jane Ann Joslyn and Bernadette Allison Nixon.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Jonathan McManus for the ministry; Miss Dinah Rose for Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Donald; Mr Brian Langstaff, QC and Mr Jeffrey Bacon for Mrs Joslyn; Mrs Nixon did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS said all four women had been unlawfully dismissed from the Forces because of pregnancy. Each had obtained alternative employment for varying periods after their dismissal, but at lower pay so that they mitigated their loss.

The point of principle that arose in relation to the calculations related to the proper approach to these post-Service earnings in the calculation of loss.

The ministry contended that the approach should be to take the total sum that the applicant would have earned had she remained in the Services for the period of years as found by the tribunal and then deduct from that sum the total amount that she had or should have earned during the period. That was method 1.

The applicants contended that the proper approach was to take the sum that the claimant would have earned in the Forces, deduct from that sum the amount that she had or should have earned elsewhere and then apply the percentage discount. That was method 2.

The difference between the two approaches could be illustrated by the example of a claimant

earning £10,000 a year in the Services, wrongfully dismissed and earning £5,000 a year in civilian life, the tribunal having found a 50 per cent chance that she would have returned to the Services after the birth of her child had she been able to do so.

Under method 1, the 50 per cent discount was applied to the £10,000, leaving £5,000. Subtract the £5,000 actually earned and she was left with no loss at all.

Under method 2, the national Service earnings would be discounted 50 per cent to £5,000, but the actual earnings would be discounted by 50 per cent to £2,500, which subtracted from the discounted earnings figure left a real loss of £2,500.

The parties were agreed that the court must approach the issue on the principle that the claimant should be as far as possible placed in the same position as they would have been in but for the unlawful act.

Counsel had adopted mathematical formulae, X being the earnings the claimant would have received had she remained in the Armed Forces and not been wrongfully dismissed, Y being the earnings earned or which could or should have been earned in alternative employment and Z, being the percentage reduction to reflect the chance that she would not have remained in the Armed Forces with higher pay than in civilian life.

Under method 1 the compensation was $X \times Z$ per cent - Y. Under method 2 it was $(X - Y) \times Z$ per cent. Mr Pannick submitted that $X \times Z$ per cent represented the total figure for loss of future earnings, and the employee had to give credit for the total sum earned in alternative employment.

In his Lordship's judgment $X \times Z$ per cent did not represent the total figure for loss of earnings. It represented the amount that the claimant would have earned in the Armed Forces but discounted for the chance that she might not have earned it. That figure disregarded the fact that if she had remained in the Forces she would not have earned a lesser sum, or any sum in civilian employment.

Accordingly, in the example given earlier, if there was a 50 per cent chance of her earning £10,000 in the Army, there was equally a 50 per cent chance that she would not earn only £5,000 in civilian employment, and to arrive at a true figure of actual loss the latter must be put into the equation as well as the former.

Mr Pannick's submission, ignored the real, existing loss in a comparison between the £5,000 actually earned and the £10,000 which the applicant had a 50 per cent chance of earning. It was impossible in his Lordship's judgment to say that a woman who was earning £5,000 a year following her dismissal had suffered no loss when she had a 50 per cent chance of earning twice that amount.

The second issue was the proper approach to cumulative chances. Making the assumption that the applicant had not been wrongfully dismissed, she would have varying prospects of remaining in the Armed Forces at different points in her career which the tribunal had to assess.

The ministry submitted that the percentage chances must be applied cumulatively. Miss Rose had argued that it was also open to the tribunal if it chose to consider each period in the round and reach an overall conclusion which took account of the applicant having left the Services prior to the commencement of the relevant period.

In his Lordship's judgment, the percentage chances must be applied cumulatively. Miss Rose had been concerned that if tribunals adopted that approach there was a risk of injustice to applicants in that the tribunal was likely to assume that there was a diminishing percentage chance that the claimant would have remained in the Forces after the end of the first period.

She argued that if it was found that there was, say, a 50 per cent chance of the claimant staying to the end of a particular period, there could be a greater chance, say 70 per cent, of her remaining for the next period. Tribunals would not doubt be alive to that point.

Lord Justice Mummery delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed with both.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Tyndallwoods, Birmingham and Fuglers; Glenisters, Ruislip.

Pendragon plc v Jackson
Before Mr Justice Morison, Mrs R. Chapman and Mr R. Sanderson
[Judgment November 5]

Because of a lacuna in the legislation, the Employment Appeal Tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear appeals from decisions of industrial tribunals in breach of contract cases.

From the commencement date of the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996, the jurisdiction of industrial tribunals to hear breach of contract claims derived from that Act and section 21, which defined the jurisdiction of the Employment Appeal Tribunal after that date, did not include jurisdiction to hear appeals from an industrial tribunal whose jurisdiction was conferred "under or by virtue of this Act".

Those words had been included in its predecessor, the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, and had given the appeal tribunal jurisdiction to hear appeals arising in proceedings before an industrial tribunal under the 1978 Act such as complaints of unfair dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when adjourning generally an appeal by Pendragon plc from a decision of a Leeds industrial tribunal on December 4, 1996 in a breach of contract claim by the applicant, Mr John Jackson.

Section 136 of the 1978 Act, now repealed by the 1996 Act, had provided: "An appeal shall lie to the appeal tribunal on a question of law arising from any decision of, or arising in any proceedings before, an industrial tribunal under or by virtue of the following Acts... (4) this Act...".

Section 136 of the 1978 Act, now repealed by the 1996 Act, had provided: "An appeal shall lie to the appeal tribunal on a question of law arising from any decision of, or arising in any proceedings before, an industrial tribunal under or by virtue of the following Acts... (4) this Act...".

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Denard v Burton Retail Ltd
Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment October 16]

Retailers were liable for displaying misleading prices contrary to section 20 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 even when the retailer had fixed the misleading prices on the price tickets nor were they in a position to ensure that the pricing was accurate.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by Mr Denard from a decision of the Surrey County Council trading standards department by way of case stated against the acquittal by Farnham Justices on July 25, 1996 of Burton Retail Ltd of two informations alleging misleading price indications given at Burton's shops, contrary to section 20 of the 1987 Act.

The question before the court was whether the words "in the course of a business" was to be interpreted widely or narrowly.

"(1)... a person shall be guilty of an offence if, in the course of any business of his, he gives (by any means whatever) to any con-

sumers an indication which is misleading as to the price at which any goods... are available..."

Mr Karl Scholz for the prosecutor; Mr Martin Hurst for Burton.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said Burton and another company, Baird, were operating a concession in Burton's stores in Sunderland and Guildford.

In the stores concerned all merchandise was owned by Baird but had the rights had Burton labels on them. Staff were employed by Baird but customer payments were made at a Burton till and receipts were issued by Burton.

The concession agreement between Baird and Burton set price parameters but exact pricing was left to Baird and Burton had no means of checking that the exact price had been fixed to the price tags. The price tags had "Burton" on them. Customers would believe themselves to be in a Burton store purchasing Burton's merchandise.

Section 20 of the 1987 Act provided: "(1)... a person shall be guilty of an offence if, in the course of any business of his, he gives (by any means whatever) to any con-

sumers an indication which is misleading as to the price at which any goods... are available..."

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sumers an indication which is misleading as to the price at which any goods... are available..."

Mr Guy Prichard for Pendragon; Mr Christopher Graham, solicitor, for Mr Jackson; Mrs Melanie Hall as amicus curiae.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the appeal raised an important question concerning the jurisdiction of the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The question at issue was whether, since the introduction of the new legislation in 1996, the appeal tribunal had jurisdiction to hear appeals on points of law arising from decisions of industrial tribunals in breach of contract cases.

Since August 1996, the appeal tribunal had heard a number of such appeals. If it did not have jurisdiction, the consequences were serious; not only would the court have acted without jurisdiction in the past but also, until the position was rectified by Parliament, many appeals might have to remain unheard.

Section 136 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 had conferred jurisdiction on the appeal tribunal to hear appeals on a question of law arising from any decision under or by virtue of a number of Acts and under "this Act".

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ACR. Since industrial tribunals derived much of their jurisdiction from the 1978 Act those words were important.

From July 12, 1996, the jurisdiction of industrial tribunals was extended to hear claims for breach of contract. Pursuant to section 136 of the 1978 Act the appeal tribunal had jurisdiction to hear appeals from such decisions.

But the relevant provisions of section 136 were repealed by the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996 and were replaced by section 21 which omitted the reference to "this Act". Therefore on a literal construction of the statutory language, the appeal tribunal would have no power to hear appeals from decisions of industrial tribunals where their jurisdiction was derived from the 1996 Act.

Unless there was some saving provision in the legislation, or the court was persuaded to take a non-literal approach to construction, the appeal tribunal would have to decline jurisdiction to hear such appeals until Parliament had amended the legislation.

It was common ground between the parties that if the appeal tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear the appeal, the effect of section 11 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1991 was to give a party a right of appeal to the High Court.

The point at issue was important. There were many appeals against decisions of industrial

tribunals on breach of contract complaints. The appeal tribunal forum which was not hedged about by legal technicalities and which was intended to be relatively speedy.

If, which the appeal tribunal thought might be debatable, the High Court provided an alternative forum for an appeal, it was much less attractive for unrepresented parties and less speedy.

But his Lordship had concluded that it would be wrong to try to fill the gap left by Parliament. There was no reported decision where a court had added words to a statute to fill an apparent lacuna in its jurisdiction. The appeal tribunal should be slow to conclude that it had jurisdiction on the basis that it could add words to the statute which were not there.

They had been referred to a number of authorities, none of which was directly in point. As a matter of pure construction on the ordinary and natural meaning of the words in section 21 of the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996, the appeal tribunal had no power to hear appeals against decisions of tribunals where the tribunal had taken jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of that Act.

There was a lacuna in the legislation which Parliament had to put right. The appeal would be adjourned generally.

Solicitors: Mr I. Beken; Ford & Warren, Leeds; Treasury Solicitor.

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employees of Baird over which they had no control.

His Lordship preferred the submissions of the appellant. One should not be distracted by the issue of who was responsible for fixing prices and writing price tags. The duty was a non-delegable one. See *Quadrant Dairies (York) Ltd v Pedley* [1952] 1 KB 275 and *R v Associated Octel Ltd* [1996] 1 WLR 1543.

The misleading price indication had clearly been given in the course of Burton's business.

Mr Justice Gage agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Jonathan Jessup, Kingston upon Thames; Mr Adam Goldman, Oxford Street.

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Solicitors: Mr Jonathan Jessup, Kingston upon Thames; Mr Adam Goldman, Oxford Street.

Solicitors: Mr Jonathan Jessup, Kingston upon Thames; Mr Adam Goldman, Oxford Street.

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

ROOM AT THE TOP

Executive Assistant £32,000 Package

Business law, first-class report writing skills and effective communication are just a few of the talents required by the Board Director of this expanding Management Consultancy.

The diversity of the role will challenge even the most career minded assistant. Your responsibilities will include the preparation of business plans, client presentations and being a member of the client development team. Excellent administration and secretarial skills are also essential. Candidates must be of graduate calibre with a formal secretarial qualification including 80wpm shorthand and 60wpm typing.

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

PARTY PEOPLE £20,000

Fabulous role, as secretary to the MD of these famous party organisers and caterers. They arrange exclusive functions in palaces, galleries and private residences. You will visit clients, type presentations and help at events. 80 wpm shorthand / 60 wpm typing needed. Please telephone 0171 628 9529 Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PAPROJECT ASSISTANT £24,000

A newly created position in this fast paced city organisation where you will support a senior executive and organise his fund management team. The role can be developed with responsibility for daily administration and involvement in projects. Excellent communication skills. 55 wpm typing, Windows packages. Please telephone 0171 628 9529 Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEPTIONIST £18,000 + Bens

Prestigious blue-chip organisation moving to beautiful Mayfair office have opportunity for professional front-line person to run the reception area. Experience of similar environment essential. Please telephone 0171 435 2321 Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INTEREST IN ARTS £27,500

As PA to the chief executive of these very prestigious developers you will participate in every aspect of his diverse life and interests. Lots of involvement for young, polished professional. 90/55 skills. Please telephone 0171 495 2321 Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PR EXECUTIVE £22 - £23,000

Based in the Corporate Affairs Division of this global organisation you will mainly assist with the writing/drafting of press releases, speeches, newsletter and brochures. PR experience and degree educated essential. Please telephone 0171 495 2321 Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Opportunities in Paris will be revealed at our International Forum in London on Monday 26th January 1998

Our clients in Paris are actively looking for professional secretaries and PAs with solid secretarial experience and fluency in French. Graduates with formal secretarial qualifications are also very much in demand.

We are organising a one day forum to present the Paris job market to keen candidates. It is a great opportunity for you to meet our team of French consultants and discuss the skills in demand and the salaries and benefits offered by Paris-based companies. Interviews for exciting jobs will also be held on the day.

If you wish to speak please contact Davide Male on 0171 814 0808. Registration closes on 9th January.

Angela Mortimer International London • Paris • Bath • Birmingham • Manchester

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ST John's Wood PROPERTY MANAGEMENT £20,000

This small, but fast expanding company is on the lookout for a Property Manager (aged 26+). The prospects are brilliant for someone who is both computer literate (esp. in Word, E-Mail, Excel) and has substantial experience in letting agencies. You will play a major role in this company's growth, developing the management side and running a portfolio of 90 exclusive properties, so you'll need to be highly organised. If you would thrive in managing and working with a team, and have great interpersonal qualities, then you will succeed in this opportunity of a lifetime. Fulfill your ambitions with this job - call us now. 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1A 1HP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

THE WORLD OF WINES £17,000 + bens

Aged between 35-45 and looking for that elusive position which gives you both security, fun and independence all at the same time? This could be your perfect job working for the Owner of a unique company that promotes wines. As PA you'll have a fascinating organisational role, meet all sorts of interesting people, orchestrate international travel - you'll need to type at 50+ wpm (ideally 60+ wpm). Be at the centre of everything in this small West End office! Are you looking for a one-off job and would you enjoy working in the World of Wines? Then call us today to change your tomorrow. 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1A 1HP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FUN PR Reception £13-15,000 + Bonus + Med

This fantastic young company, situated in trendy new office in Victoria are looking for a bright spark, aged between 19-24, to run their Reception. You'll be working with 20 others, most of a similar age, so this is not a job where you're going to worry about having a good time! This position means that you'll have the opportunity to meet Clients and do some organising as well as answering phones, so you will be expected to be polished & smart with an excellent telephone manner. There will be a little typing (40wpm) so that you can help your colleagues. If you are eager, vivacious and looking for just the perfect job, call us now. 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1A 1HP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - No sh/h nec! £24,000 + priv health

This company, based 1 minute from Bond St, are looking for a bright, keen PA to work in a 1:1 role for a new Director. The job is totally new and he wants you to be very actively involved in his projects - research, co-ordinate and provide real right - hand support. It's a small company so you must enjoy working as part of a close-knit team. Numeracy is an advantage, as well as good use skills. (35 wpm typing). Begin at the beginning & start fresh and bring your experience and talents to this organisation. Age 28 yrs or more (mature candidates welcomed). 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1A 1HP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

At Entertainment is launching Poland's first digital satellite direct-to-home television service - WIZJA TV. This programming will consist of over 14 high quality Polish language channels originating from the UK. This will include the best of international film, drama, comedy, news, children's programmes, live sport and original Polish productions.

For WIZJA TV's multi-channel broadcast centre, located in Kent, we are looking for the following highly skilled professional:

Production Office Officer

You must be fluent in both English and Polish, and have a minimum of 4 years' experience in a production office or similar role. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, ensuring that all production meetings to be held within the office are organised and run smoothly. You will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, ensuring that all production meetings to be held within the office are organised and run smoothly.

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CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

required immediately for two year period only to assist with a collection of silver, gold and fabric items - mostly 18th and 19th century. Applicants must have a background in European decorative arts and have prior experience in object handling as well as all other aspects of museum administration. Experience obtained in American Museums is an advantage. Salary £15,000.

CV's to Heather Trust for The Arts, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN. Closing date 29 November.

Creston Land & Estates plc

PA/Secretary for three creditworthy leaseholders.

Victoria SW1. Properly company requires a PA to Managing Director to cover three months maternity leave, starting on 1 January 1998, salary £20,000 per annum.

Advanced WPM, audio, typing speed of 60wpm and day management, including travel arrangements. Good telephone manner and flexibility important, with the ability to work under pressure.

Please send CV to Emma Cumming, Creston Land & Estates plc, 26 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH. NO AGENCIES

SHORTHAND - USE IT, DON'T LOSE IT!

Up to £25k + Unbeatable Bens. Short hand is back! If you have 60/50 wpm and WPM then the world is your oyster! Too good to be true? Not if you are well organised, aged 25-40, and can handle a very varied role including travel/transport arrangements, expenses, utilising databases and client liaison. Overtime will be rewarded but this is rewarded by an excellent salary, annual bonus PLUS 20 Days Holiday.

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS? £16-£18K + 20 Days Holiday. Are you 'switched on' to audio and can handle a heavy workload? Fancy being involved in retail reception too? Then come and join this established firm of accountants with superb offices and a relaxed environment, based close to Oxford Street using your Word for Windows. Ideally you'll be able to start on 1st December and they'll GIVE YOU CHRISTMAS OFF! Call now for an immediate interview.

SWEET ON TRADERS? To £16K + Bens Inc. Open ideal opportunity for a young Secretary (no City experience necessary) to support a busy team of traders within this City firm. The role includes secretarial and admin support such as overseas client liaison. If you are a trained secretary with 45wpm WPM and feel that you can handle the boys - DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!

SIMPLY THE BEST!

We know how good you are! We know that you're a professional and want to be treated with the same respect as clients! That is why we offer you: Quality service from experienced Team Controllers. Unbeatable competitive rate. A highly competitive rate. Loyalty incentives. Immediate temp to perm opportunities. Top West End and City assignments. Yes - respect!

If you are aged 18-40, have good MS Office (or advanced WordPerfect 5.1) excellent audio and, if possible, shorthand skills - do yourself a favour, CALL THE BEST IN TOWN!

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484 FAX: 0171 734 8501

Bored...?

If you'd joined Foxtons World of International Property when you graduated, your full potential would have been recognised and rewarded by now.

Foxtons provides the environment and commitment to help ambitious individuals really succeed.

As leaders in a new and exciting marketplace of International Property, we deliver solutions to corporate organisations worldwide. We currently have entry level positions across the board.

To apply call Lesley Martin on 0171 973 2048.

92 Park Lane, Mayfair. FOXTONS

Secretary to Partner (EC1) Competitive Salary and Benefits

Progressive firm of Chartered Accountants and Corporate Finance Advisers requires a competent and responsible secretary (non-union) to participate in the redistribution and smooth running of this busy practice. Good telephone manner, organisational skills together with the ability to juggle and work effectively within a team. Knowledge of Lotus and Pro Windows packages preferable. Send covering letter and CV to:

The Staff Partner, Kingwood House, No 1 Chiswell Green, London, EC1N 6SE. Strictly Via Agencies.

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Kingwood House, No 1 Chiswell Green, London, EC1N 6SE. Strictly Via Agencies.

Secretarial opportunities within leading City PR consultancy

We are a fast growing, hi-tech financial PR company based in the City, currently comprising over 60 employees. We seek two City-style secretaries with very good working knowledge of the latest versions of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint as well as the ability to adapt to new systems such as our communications software for the London Stock Exchange and database. The positions we are currently recruiting for are:

Senior Secretary at Director level

A positive/strong personality as well as excellent secretarial skills (City experience essential), to include diary management, good interpersonal skills and full working knowledge of Microsoft Office and flexibility regarding overtime is required. Age: 26-35. Starting salary: £20-£24k + benefits.

Support team secretary

'Second jobber' secretary required for this position to work within a team of four, with a senior secretary. City experience recommended. Must be a team player, keen to learn, as well as flexibility on overtime. Age: 20+. Salary: up to £16k + benefits.

Please fax your CV and covering letter in confidence to Tanya Excel on 0171 248 3295

016-£20k (dependent on experience) - NW3

PA's in all-media publishing

Gee Publishing, part of The Thomson Corporation, is the UK's most dynamic and innovative all-media business publisher. We now offer excellent career opportunities for a senior PA to the Managing Director and HR Executive.

Providing efficient, all-round secretarial support using Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint, you will act on your initiative to organise busy diaries, manage administration and handle internal and external communications. Poise, maturity and flair should be backed by polished secretarial skills and 3-5 years' experience in a similar role.

Benefits include contributory pension, discounted BUPA, discounts on Thomson holidays and subsidised club membership. Please write with CV stating current salary details to: Michelle Cummins, Gee Publishing Limited, 100 Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, London NW3 3PC. Closing date: 28th November 1997.

016-£20k (dependent on experience) - NW3

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016-£20k (dependent on experience) - NW3

DIOCESE OF TRURO DIOCESAN SECRETARY

The Diocese is seeking to appoint a Diocesan Secretary to manage the financial and administrative resources of the Diocese within the synodical structure on the retirement of the present Secretary.

The applicant will have substantial senior management and administrative experience, including an awareness of the management of finances, and will be an excellent communicator.

The salary will be at Senior Principal on the General Synod Scale.

Further details of the post and a job description can be obtained from the Bishop of Truro, Truro Diocesan Registry, Malpas Road, Truro, TR1 1QH. (01872 241700).

Your application with a CV must be received at that address by 31st December 1997.

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CENTRE POINT GROUP BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

German Speaking PA Frankfurt circa £28,000

Our client, a blue chip broking company are seeking for a German/English bi-lingual PA with Director level experience to be based at their offices in Frankfurt.

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

EXECUTIVE FLAIR

£25,000+Bens

A high energy, proactive and spontaneous Secretary is required to support this young and coming team of Business Development Executives within one of the City's leading insurance firms.

The role is exciting and varied and will involve attending client meetings, problem solving, preparation of sales and marketing presentations in addition to organising the team's complex strategic business meetings.

Meticulous attention to detail, determination and perseverance are essential for success in this role, allied with outstanding secretarial skills including shorthand and Powerpoint. If you would like to be considered for this and any other permanent or temporary vacancies please call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

TRADING PLACES

£20,000 Package

A long established Merchant Bank in the City is seeking an unflappable secretary to join its most successful sales team. Working on a hectic trading floor you will support a team of six male traders. No one day will be the same; in addition to secretarial tasks, you may find yourself organising complicated travel schedules and distributing research material to clients. At other times you will be liaising with the team's colleagues in overseas offices. The team will leave you to exercise your own judgement on day to day matters and will rely on you to support them. You will have at least eighteen months' secretarial experience, 50 wpm+ typing, a good knowledge of W4W and Excel and have a quick-witted nature. If you would like to be considered for this and any other permanent or temporary vacancies please call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

HODGE

PA - Corporate Strategy Director

£20,000 + Exc Bens

Superb opportunity for a proactive PA/Secretary with senior level experience to join a renowned International Pte. Asisting a Director and his team you will be involved with highly confidential strategic planning issues - mergers & acquisitions, deposits etc. Aside from the normal secretarial duties you will enjoy using your initiative, taking responsibility and organising extensive travel itineraries, 80 wpm typing, W4W and presentation experience (Powerpoint used). Benefits include 25 days holiday and free lunch. Call our West End Office.

TEL: 0171 629 8863 • FAX: 0171 408 0961

HODGE

TEMPORARIES

If you have good secretarial or administrative skills and would like to work in varied and interesting bookings we have a broad client base which includes - PR, Design, Marketing, Film, Blue Chip and Engineering - where you and your skills will be appreciated. Please call Ruth Mills at our West End Office.

TEL: 0171 629 8863 • FAX: 0171 408 0961

HODGE

Senior Admin Secretary

£18-20,000 + Bens

Want to be part of a young team, yet have the responsibility to make your own decisions? This prestigious consultancy with a blue chip client base seeks someone like you who, whilst assisting the head of department as his PA, has the 'standing' to give advice to other team members and make decisions in his absence. You will enjoy lots of client contact together with opportunities to take 'ownership' of projects and be an IT 'champion'. 50wpm typing + W4W, Access, Excel preferred. Call our West End Office.

TEL: 0171 629 8863 • FAX: 0171 408 0961

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BRIEFLY NOTED

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DESIGN: Foreign heads of state visiting Britain next year for the G8 Summit or the Asia-Europe Meeting will depart clutching "cool" gifts fashioned by the brightest young British designers. The Foreign Office, with the Business Design Centre, is launching a competition for graduates to design a bangle for Clinton, a pot for Kohl or perhaps a quilt for Yeltsin. The Prime Minister and Mrs Blair will be among the judges.

THEATRE: After eight male appointments the new Cameron Mackintosh Theatre Professor at the University of Oxford will be a woman. Thelma Holt, the veteran producer, will follow Sir Richard Eyre into the one-year post. She will give a series of lectures beginning on January 29, and hold a series of "Saturday morning surgeries" for undergraduates involved in the theatre.

BOOKS: Forget Jeffrey Archer or Jackie Collins: the words "a good book for a long flight" took on a very different meaning yesterday as Terminal 4 at Heathrow Airport acquired its first rare-books shop. Travellers who drop into Bauman Rare Books will find the prices somewhat steeper than at the average duty-free: the first selection of rare editions includes a *Ulysses* at £7.95, Audubon's *The Birds of America* at £26.210, *Madame Bovary* at £13.335 and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a relative snip at £4.830.

MUSIC: Another honour for Sir Simon Rattle. The conductor, who ends his 18-year stint as maestro of Birmingham next year, was given the Royal Society of Arts' premier award — the Albert Medal — last week. Another conductor is also moving on: Semyon Bychkov, currently music director of the Orchestre de Paris, will become chief conductor of the Dresden State Opera and the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra after he quits France next year.

Stephen Dillane tells Matt Wolf why he almost turned down his plum role in the powerful *Welcome to Sarajevo*

The conscientious objector

Woody Harrelson and Marisa Tomei may be the box office draws of *Welcome to Sarajevo*, but the fierce, cool centre to Michael Winterbottom's passionate depiction of the war in Bosnia can be found in Stephen Dillane, the latest British theatre actor to make a bid for film renown.

Dillane has appeared in films before, not least in the little-seen Sandra Bullock vehicle *Stolen Hearts* which the actor reckons he got on the strength of a Snowdon photograph in *Vanity Fair*. But *Welcome to Sarajevo* marks the 40-year-old performer's highest-profile work to date. So it is somewhat surprising to

at some point I decided to take a leap of faith." The result is one of the year's most powerful films, retaining the immediacy of a genre classic such as *The Battle of Algiers* without pandering to audience tear ducts as sometimes happened in, say, *Missing*. Premiered at Cannes in May, the film was derided by some (the French press especially) for fictionalising a period of history still too close to us. Dillane, though, stands by the finished product. "The only way you can do justice to the situation is to make the imaginative journey towards it as rigorously and with as much good intent as possible."

It all looked like a horrible package on the page

Screenwriter Frank Cottrell Boyce had adapted ITN journalist Michael Nicholson's account of the war and his adoption of a young Bosnian girl as chronicled in his 1993 memoirs, *Notasha's Story*. The producers wanted Dillane to play the Nicholson character in the film.

"By its very nature, film remakes everything in this image of itself, and I was aware that it would only impose on the war this Hollywood version of events, so I thought stay clear; don't touch it," Dillane says.

"At that point it seemed pure Hollywood — heroic English journalist saves lucky little Bosnian girl from slaughter and brings her back to England which stands for all things true and good. It all looked like a horrible package on the page."

What brought Dillane round was seeing Winterbottom's existing films, particularly his bruising road movie, *Butterfly Kiss*. "That made me think, there's actually a purpose in this and it is not entirely without honour. I thought Michael would have the right eye, that his interest was not in easy, smooth, contained emotions. Basically,

What prompted the switch to acting? "I wasn't enjoying being a journalist and couldn't think of anything else to do, actually," says Dillane, a doctor's son who grew up in Kent and read history and politics at Exeter. The practical spur, he says, came when he read an interview with Trevor Eve, whose own shift from architecture to acting suggested to Dillane that such moves were possible. The imaginative spur arose from reading Peter Brook's manifesto *The Empty Space* back to back with *Hamlet*. "Those two things together made me light up inside somewhere, since in other ways I wasn't particularly aware or reflective person at the time; I was just kind of morose."

He enrolled in the two-year drama programme at the Bristol Old Vic and remembers the time as "very exciting and just bizarre. At drama school, I was convinced they had the wrong person the first year. The students were either much younger or Cambridge English graduates with a passionate, more intellectual connection to the work, where-



His part as a British journalist in *Welcome to Sarajevo* could make Stephen Dillane hot news in Hollywood. But his heart belongs to the theatre

as I had no idea what was going on a lot of the time."

The usual stunts in rep were next, followed by some TV work. But it was in a production of *The Beaux' Stratagem*, with Brenda Blethyn, that Dillane began to be noticed, even if the presence in Equity of a Stephen Delaney meant that he launched his career with the surname Dillon. "I hated not having my own

name. I used to phone up Equity every six months asking whether Stephen Delaney had died yet."

Back at the National in 1990, he was in the London premiere of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, missing out on the Broadway transfer of Brian Friel's play when his girlfriend Naomi Wirthner, herself an actress, had their first child (a second is on the way). But the

quantum leap in recognition came three years ago, when he was cast as Hamlet in Peter Hall's production. Dillane staked out a fresh claim to the part as an unusually sardonic, mocking prince who stripped naked at one point and laid bare his nerve ends during a punishing, eight-performances-a-week run over an intense eight months. "Tired isn't the word," Dillane says.

From there it was on to D.H. Lawrence on TV (*The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd*) and Beckett at the Donmar Warehouse (*Endgame*, as Clov to Alun Armstrong's Hamlet), both directed by Katie Mitchell, and inheriting Christopher Walken's Broadway role in David Greig's *Hurlyburly* — "a great play".

Dillane has several more films awaiting release, but he returns to the theatre in the spring, playing Vanya in an RSC-Young Vic co-production. "It seemed irresistible, really," he says, forsaking any thoughts of doing the Hollywood circuit. "Once you're offered things, I don't think it's extraordinary to be able to do them. I think it's extraordinary to be offered them."

• *Welcome to Sarajevo* opens on Friday and is reviewed tomorrow

As ever, Baryshnikov stands alone

DANCE IN PARIS

Mikhail Baryshnikov stands on stage and lets us listen to his heartbeat. Attached to his chest is a sensor which feeds into a high-volume amplifier. When he moves an arm or twists his torso, the muscular activity causes the sound to blur and rumble. But when he runs or performs a series of nimble, humorous skips, the heartbeat comes across strong and clear, undistorted by lower-body movement.

Sara Rudner's new *Heartbeats* was the last and longest of three solos danced by the great star at the trendy Bobigny theatre in suburban Paris. Injury among Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project troupe made him decide to go it alone.

Still a work-in-progress.

Heartbeats: mb is more an interesting concept than sophisticated choreography, although the concept has limited mileage. We hear the not-so-startling evidence that exercise accelerates the heart, while a lurch into flamenco-flavoured steps introduces an interplay between Baryshnikov's inner-cardiac rhythm and his outer foot-tapping one. But there is something affecting about this glimpse into the internal machinery of such an exceptional individual; it seems that, yes, it is dance which makes Baryshnikov tick.

The movement is fragmentary and vernacular, but frankly anything Baryshnikov does is sensational. In the

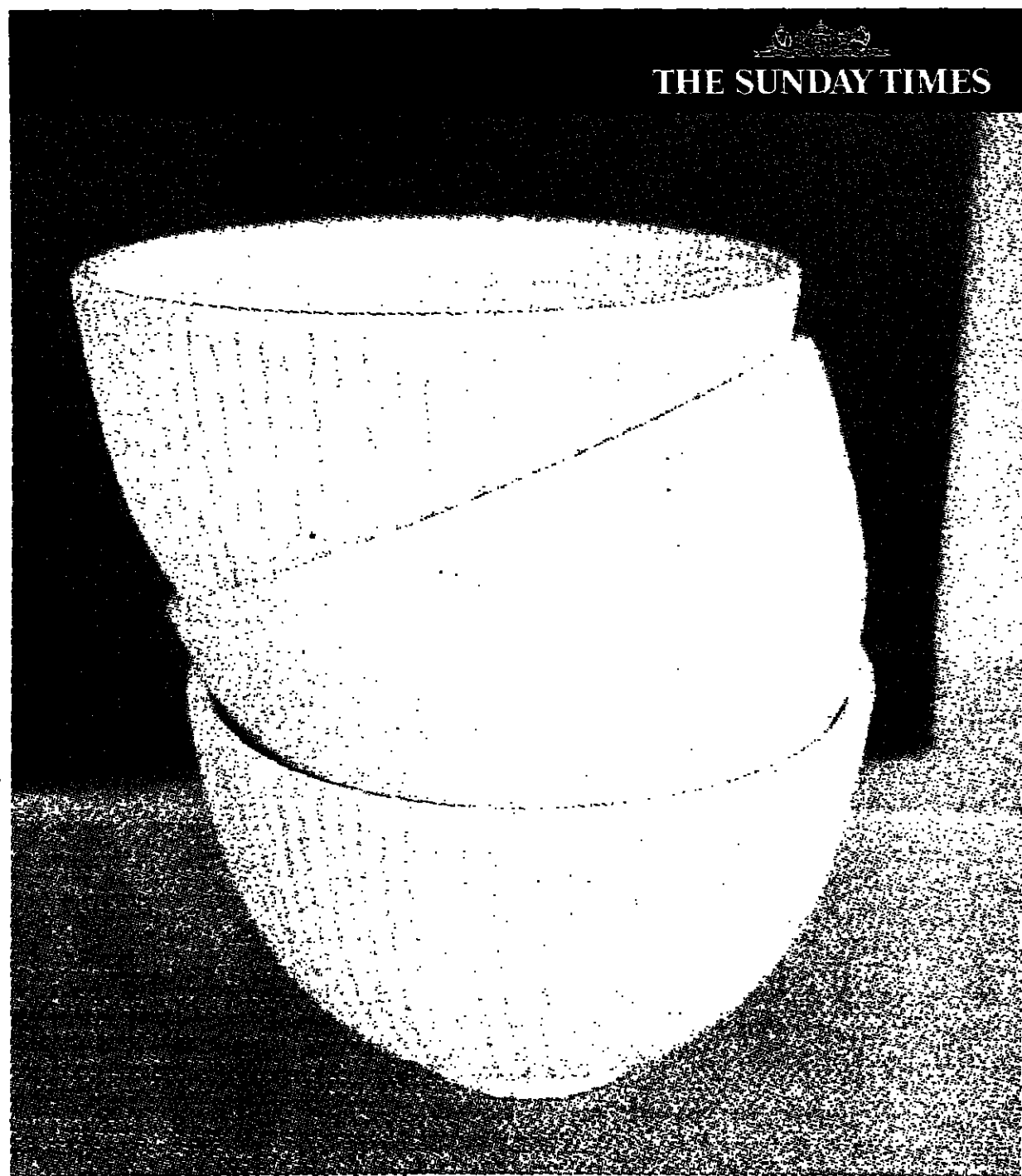
other two solos, José Limón's *Chaconne* and Mark Morris's *Three Russian Preludes*, you notice the spectacular contrast of speed, slow satiny turns giving way to bright, arrowy jets. You also notice the subtlety: the rubato and alterations of emphasis which enrich his dance.

Over at the Palais Garnier, the wonderful dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet have selflessly given body and soul to Lorca Massine's horrible Disneyesque revival of his father's *La Symphonie Fantastique*, created in 1936 and last performed by the Paris Opera in 1963. Kader Belarbi smouldered darkly as the damned, opium-crazed com-

poser, seeing images derived from Berlioz's own written libretto for his symphony. An idealised girl (the beautiful Fanny Gaïda) is eternally out of reach, lifted by groups of men in architectural tableaux. Waltzing couples away in the night, fantastical insect-figures dart in a bucolic landscape, satanic spirits gloat over the composer's dead body, the Gaïda character now one of them.

Lorca Massine's tacky and crude version of this phantasmagoria has been condemned by those who remember the earlier stagings. Responsible for Birmingham's equally disastrous *The Three-Cornered Hat* a few years ago, Massine is killing off his father's work.

NADINE MEISNER



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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

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Age: 22.

Profession: Actress.

Current whereabouts: On a balcony at the Swan Theatre, Stratford, as the RSC's new Juliet. The reviews — "which I refused to read" — have been excellent, describing her performance as "thrilling", "remarkable" and "moving".

Long haul: With an international and regional tour to follow, including dates in Bogota, Osaka and, um, Melton Mowbray, she'll have fallen in love, married and died 171 times by next June. "I'm looking forward to the production evolving."

Hippy chic: She grew up in Totnes, Devon, "a haven for ex-hippies, including my parents, who are both teachers. I spent my adolescence barefoot with beads in my hair."

Unusual taste in interior decorating: Preparing to play Titania in a National Youth Theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, she was struggling to master one particularly long speech. "So I painted it on my bedroom wall and learnt it from there."

Influences? At RADA, which she left in 1996, voice coach Sue Cowan was "a patient and inspired teacher who opened you up to the possibilities of what your voice can do".

Is she in danger of being typecast? After playing Ophelia opposite Michael Maloney's Hamlet in Greenwich earlier this year, she's well on her way to completing the Shakespeare grand slam of juvenile tragic heroines. "After Juliet I'd love to do some hard-hitting, urban new writing. It worries me that people will start to think I'm just a long-haired Shakespearean girl."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



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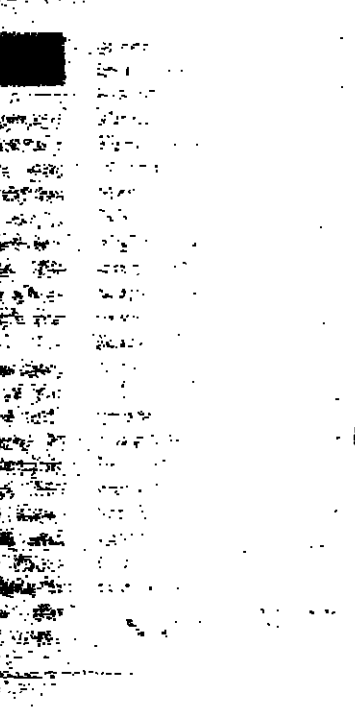
Tchaikovsky

Eugene
Onegin



Photo: Alan Marshall

ands alone



ene

egin



Bigger and very Moorish

If nothing else, Chris Smith's plans for cutting London's operatic activity down to a size more appropriate to new Labour's brave new tabloid world should result in benefits for audiences — for the next six months, at least. Hot on the heels of ENO's outstanding *Falstaff* comes the Royal Opera with *Otello*, equally determined to show a packed Albert Hall what it can do best with the most successful "arena" production I have yet encountered.

This Albert Hall debut was to have been a new *Cav* and *Pag*, but the money was not available and they had to fish something out of stock. Elijah Moshinsky and Timothy O'Brien have adapted their production and sets most convincingly. O'Brien's Veronese pillars frame the simplified acting area, and despite the absence of flies his cloths and portculis somehow rise and fall; Moshinsky's reblocked entrances and exits work well, with two tower structures added to mimic wings.

The show looks exceedingly handsome and, with almighty cracks of thunder and lightning flashes penetrating every nook and cranny of the hall, gets off to even more thrilling a start than in a conventional opera house.

With the stage built out from the platform and the orchestra sunk in front of it, we are indeed almost in a conventional opera house. There is some jiggery-pokery with the sound — not amplification as such, but "ambient enhancement" or some such weasel words: all I can say is that it isn't necessary, and that despite slightly favouring voices at the expense of the orchestra it is better managed than ever before. You can hear everything, and you need to since the company could not afford surtitles — even cash shortages bring blessings.

The main thing is that what is "enhanced" is so good:



Chorus and orchestra are on cracking form, and as well as being an excellent conductor Jacques Delacôte is highly experienced in such enterprises; ensemble is as crisp — no, crisper — than could reasonably be expected, and simply as an account of the score his reading is absolutely first-rate.

There are few surprises but solid satisfaction in the singing. The trumpet-toned, leather-lunged Vladimir Bogachev brings real tenorial "ping" as well as some sensitively moulded soft singing to a role often taken by jumped-up baritones, and he will need to be more than ever leather-lunged since, owing to Giuseppe Giacomini's illness, he will now be singing the Moor five nights running (historians will be rifling through archives to see if this has ever happened before — I would guess not).

The amazing Sergei Leiferkus returns as Iago, a malevolent snarl on two legs when alone, a smiling, studiously relaxed and poisonously "honest" damned villain in company. His sneer over his prone victim at the third-act curtain freezes the blood.

The Desdemona, Daniela Dessi, is new. Her voice, maybe not flattered by "enhancement", tends to grittiness and is not traditionally beautiful, but she has Verdi's idiom at her fingertips and phrases the music with dignity and warmth, saving her best for the Willow Song.

Bonaventura Bottone also makes his company debut as a forthright Cassio, and the supporting roles are well taken. Special circumstances or no, this is a really good show.

RODNEY MILNES



Solid satisfaction: Vladimir Bogachev (who will sing Otello five nights running) listens to Sergei Leiferkus's Iago

No need to cry for him, Argentina

Joanna Pitman listens to the fast-rising young tenor José Cura

José Cura is an enthusiast. We meet in the office of the young tenor's recording company, Warner Classics, high above Kensington Church Street and we talk, or rather he talks — very quickly and with great focus, clearly with points, cracking jokes, performing for all he is worth. It is easily ten minutes before I can squeeze my second question past him, and I begin to wonder whether perhaps I should simply have sent a tape recorder round in a taxi — but then I would have missed his one-man talk show. And Cura's show is so good he could sell tickets for it.

"I started playing the guitar when I was 12 because I noticed that people who played the guitar were always surrounded by girls. This was Argentina in the Seventies. It was still the era of the Beatles, and teenagers like me wanted to imitate them. Life in my country was pretty tough, and we used to escape into music. Also I wanted to be the centre of attraction."

he met his current teacher Vitorio Terranova and began to concentrate on the Italian operatic style, he has swept across opera stages around the world, singing lead tenor roles and winning rave reviews.

But Cura is a risk-taker. For by no means an easy role — he chose to sing live for television and radio under the baton of Claudio Abbado with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. "Otello is a role that most singers approach gradually. But I knew I was ready for it and so I did it. People say a lot of things about me but nobody can say I haven't got guts."

He displayed his considerable guts again when deciding to record every Puccini tenor aria in existence at one go for a Warner Classics CD. "No other tenor in the world at this



Jose Cura, "husband and lover"

Cura got what he wanted. The girls duly flocked, and their admiring eyes have never left him — today he positively oozes the virility of his Spanish-Lebanese parentage, and that, combined with his exceptional tenor voice and an impassioned acting style, is precisely the sort of package that sets hearts aflutter from Minnesota to Melbourne.

"My musical upbringing was not particularly special. My mother collected records so I heard all sorts of great music from the day I was born. I never thought I would be a professional musician. I just studied composition and conducting for pleasure after school, and then one thing led to another and I started doing music at university in Rosario. I sang in choirs and studied choral technique for a few years. But when I was 23 I just decided to stop singing because I knew the technique and repertoire I was being taught were not right for me."

stage in their career would attempt the entire Puccini repertoire of arias. But I did. And I'm glad I did. I was prepared and I sang them in my own way. I sing with sobs and cries. I really take on the characters I am playing and I portray feelings, real suffering. My songs are not like computer music, they are the songs of real people... I know there is one note that's flat in the recording. It could have been simply adjusted by computer, but I didn't want it changed because I wanted this to be a natural, real sound, not artificial like so many CD recordings."

His next recording will be an album of Argentinian songs, some of his own composition. He will sing in concert with Plácido Domingo in London in April next year, and between his commitments he will rush back to his family in Paris. "It's a wonderful way of earning a living, but real life is more important. I'm lucky to have the security of a happy family to come home to. Yes, I am a diva on stage, but at home I am a normal man, I am passionate, I have seen sadness and I am a man who cries very easily..." At this point, the flood of words threatens to turn into a flood of tears. Cura is a consummate actor, but he is also intelligent and charming. If he is moody, I caught him in a good mood.

● José Cura sings in the Royal Opera House Night of the Stars concert at the Albert Hall tomorrow

CONCERTS: A dazzling ten minutes of contemporary invention; plus period Handel on a deliciously small scale

LAST week was a good one for piano concertos. Just a few days after Peter Maxwell Davies's new concerto for the instrument was introduced to a London audience, that of Thomas Adès also received its London premiere, played and conducted by the composer at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the London Sinfonietta.

The work's title, *Concerto Conciso*, proclaims its succinctness — a mere ten minutes in duration. But every second is crammed with detail, whether textural or rhythmic. The ensemble is divided into three groups, of which one brings together the piano and a characteristically exotic array of percussion instruments (including temple blocks, log drum, two snare and a piece of foam).

Metrical, the work is hideously complex. The last pages of the first movement, for example, superimpose five different pulses, although the average listener is unlikely to be aware of it. What he or she actually hears is a

Metre maze



generally syncopated rhythm imparting a jazzy feel.

Paradoxically, despite the teeming inner life of the piece and the virtuosity required to bring it off — Adès and the Sinfonietta players handled it all superbly — the overriding impression is one of some what exiguous invention. But so cleverly is the whole thing put together that one is happily dazzled by it.

Adès's imaginative programming set the work against the backdrop of three unfamiliar scores from the past few decades. The last thing one would expect from the composer of the *Roma-*

nian *Rhapsodies* is a score sounding at times like Schoenberg, but Enescu's late Chamber Symphony (1954) irresistibly brought to mind the Viennese composer's first essay in the same genre.

Niccolò Castiglioni's *Cantus Planus II*, on the other hand, echoed Webern in its terse, precisely coloured gestures. Its 12 verses are set for two voices, and Nicole Tibbels and Teresa Shaw brought to it exactly the concentrated focus it demands.

Unfolding on a larger scale is the Concerto of Jean Barraqué, which sets solo clarinet (Timothy Lince) and vibraphone (David Hockings) against a chamber ensemble subdivided not unlike Adès's concerto. Stark eruptions alternate with passages of mollifying lyricism, but although the progress is piecemeal, it cohered, in this superbly executed performance, in a wholly convincing way.

BARRY MILLINGTON

STATIONERS' Hall has been all too rarely used as a concert venue. With a musical history stretching back to the 17th century, when Purcell composed his ode *Hail! Bright Cecilia* for performance on that saint's feast-day in 1692, it is a splendid and appropriate venue for Baroque music.

Now in its third year, the Saint Cecilia International Festival of Music opened with Handel's setting of Dryden's ode, *Alexander's Feast, or the Power of Music*, a text that had already been set to music by Jeremiah Clarke and premiered at the Cecilian festivities in Stationers' Hall 300 years ago. That work has been lost, but Handel's version — first heard in Covent Garden in 1736 — is well-established.

Alexander's Feast displays Alexander's dramatic skills as well as a new and forward-looking flexibility in his approach to musical form. Dryden's vivid handling of the subject-matter — Timotheus, legendary lyre player of the

Feasting off Alex



ancient world, convinces Alexander of music's ability to soothe, incite and inspire — itself inspired Handel to a brilliantly evocative score of great depth and beauty. The impact of the small-scale, period-instrument forces of Fiori Musicali in the lively acoustics of Stationers' Hall was strong, despite some shortcomings in the performance as a whole.

Chief among these was the singing of soprano soloist Patrizia Kwella which, for much of the time, was unsettled in tone and wayward in intonation, although when it all came together, as in the battle song of the fifth stanza, there were glimpses of a

potentially compelling interpretation. Nicholas Humdall-Smith's sweet-toned light tenor sounded very well in such a resonant space, while Jozik Koc's bass was almost too powerful at times, though he did bring a spectral quality to the evocation of the "Grecian ghosts, that in battle were slain".

The orchestra and choir of Fiori Musicali were well drilled by their director Penelope Rapson, apart from the odd hiatus, and there was a nicely flowing account by Frances Kelly of the harp concerto that follows, right on cue, the description of Timotheus's "Flying Fingers". The clinking of bottles in preparation for the post-concert banquet was sadly muted, accompanying the lament for the fallen hero Darius rather than the Paeon to Bacchus in the previous stanza. The Festival lasts for a week, with a repeat performance of *Alexander's Feast* next Saturday.

TESS KNIGHTON

Out of the forests and into the Barbican

ARCHITECTURE: A Finnish festival in London is showcasing an approach to design inspired by nature. Hilary Finch reports

Every Londoner loves to hate the Barbican. But imagine what might have happened had a Finnish architect been at the helm in 1972. Just imagine... and see a tiny glimpse of it come true as a six-week celebration of Finnish culture opens at the Barbican, and its spaces — from lake through to foyers, halls and galleries — become temporarily transformed by the work of the 26-year-old Kivi Sotamaa and Markus Holmsten, two of Finland's youngest and most revolutionary architects.

The festival is called *Valo*, Finnish for light. For nothing is more essential to an understanding of Finnish culture. In a country where land is just a thin horizontal line between vast spaces of sky and water, artists and architects have

developed a unique visual sense, their artefacts intensely fused with the qualities of the natural environment.

It is now accepted that Finland was the source of the new architectural regionalism which has pointed a way out of the dead-end of postmodernism. In his compelling study of Nordic architecture, *Nightlands* (MIT, 1996), Christian Norberg-Schulz attributes the country's visual acuity to the possibilities for freedom in a land of infinite extension. It is no accident that in 1998, the year of the centenary of the great architect

Alvar Aalto, a new, all-wood concert hall will rise from the lake-shore in Lahti, 60 miles north of Helsinki. And in the capital itself the new Museum of Contemporary Art, with its highly innovative use of light and interactive spaces, will open in the centre of town.

So, in this festival of visual arts, music, literature and film, it is appropriate that an architectural concept should draw together its

many disparate elements. Sotamaa's and Holmsten's concept has been variously described as a large, folded sequence of spaces, a "surfscape" and an archipelago. Sotamaa and Holmsten work as the Helsinki partners of O.C.E.A.N., a new network of cross-disciplinary architectural practices. They foster the hitherto heretical notion of open accessibility and collective interchange of ideas and

data. Urban design, architecture, installation art must, they claim, be interactive.

Furniture can be seen as an extension of urban space; building as an intensification of landscape. A commission for an embassy will be designed so that "in years to come, it can be used for something entirely different". Space is flexible, constantly evolving, always "decoding" its environment.

Walk through it all at the Barbican, and you might get some idea. But stop awhile in the Concourse Gallery, for here, within the shifting lights of *Valo*, is the total darkness of a Finnish winter. An exhibition called *Talvi* (Winter) features six of Finland's renowned textile artists — all of them women.

In an old converted railway station, home and studio deep within the forest lakeland of south-east Finland, I met Maissa Tikkanen, pioneer in felt textile design. For centuries the Finns had been using felt for clothing and shoes; but, after seeing a film in

1972 about Turkomen women making their nomadic tents out of felt, Tikkanen was determined to create her own method. Layer upon layer, the wool fibres are pressed into shape and shade. A shaft of amber light pierces shifting blues and indigos; the textures of mosses and lichens are evoked in huge hangings for public buildings.

Tikkanen's latest work lets in more light, more air. *Alfa* and *Omega*, created last year for the Savonlinna Art Museum, reflects a new obsession with the bare patterns of roots, creepers, branches. This, for Tikkanen, is *talvi* or winter, "undressing nature, stripping it of foliage: the beginning and the end of a new life".

● *Valo* runs at the Barbican Centre (0171-638 8911) until Jan 1

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

RSC Artistic Director Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's comic masterpiece
Opening performances: 19, 20, 21, 22, 24 November
Best seats only £20 (except Sat eves)

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Sponsored by ALLIED DOMECQ

This production is sponsored by CITROEN

LONDON

MOZART AND WOMEN OF NOTE Joan Bakewell introduces an evening of music by the all-female Antioch Chamber Orchestra which focuses on women composers with Mozart the notable exception. The group's founder, Diana Antioch directs and plays the piano in a programme which includes works by Marie Grandval, Germaine Tailleferre and Louise Farrenc, ending with Mozart's Piano Concerto in C. Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm.

ONE MORE WASTED YEAR Opening of the first of a series of international seasons: this time plays from France, Spain and Germany. Christophe Peltier plays presents three youngish contemporary plays, introducing how to enjoy the Mary Poole drama of high level cast. Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Opens tonight, 8.45pm. Then tomorrow-Sat, 8.45pm. In trip from Dec 3.

ORPHEUS Kenneth MacLush puts translation aside to write a play of his own, derived from the Greek myth. Actors: Young Company production by Nick Philippou, with Ann Fehér, Shelley King and Gary Turner. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Manchester, M2 (0161-741 8701). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat, 4.30pm. Until Dec 22.

ROYAL CONCERT Yehudi Menuhin conducts the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in this annual event under the auspices of the Queen. On the evening's programme are the National Anthem, Brahms's Academic Festival Overture, Elgar's Cello Concerto, Sibelius's Finlandia Suite. With soloists Steven Isserlis and Lesley Garrett as the soprano. Royal Albert Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-416 6800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM A three-day Czech Festival starts here tonight as the Czech National Symphony Orchestra makes its first appearance in Britain with a mix of familiar as well as lesser-known works by Czech masters. On tonight's musical menu are works by Smetana, Dvořák, Suk and Janáček. Lichfield, 10.30pm. Tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Sat, 2.30pm.

STRAFORD-UPON-AVON Arian Noble directs Helen Schreier and Clare Holman as Viola and Olivia in Twelfth Night. The cast also includes David Cadogan, Stephen Boxer and Philip Voss as Malvolio. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 255222). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 25, 7pm. In repertory.



Yakov Kreizberg swings the baton at the Barbican

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Some seats all prices

Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881), Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm. Until Nov 22.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, directed by Nicholas Wright. Royal National Theatre, St. James's Palace, SW1 (0171-434 5055). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

IN SCISSORSHIPS: Comedy. Whodunnit where the audience can play detective. Adapted by Neil Murray. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Manchester, M2 (0161-741 8701). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat, 4.30pm. Until Dec 22.

END OF THE AFFAIR: Jasper Britton and Caroline Fawcett in an adaptation of Graham Greene's novel, set during the London Blitz. Directed by Rupert Goold and first seen at Salisbury Playhouse. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

IN HENRY V: Michael Sheen plays the warlike Henry in Ron Daniels' production, not well reviewed in Stratford, perhaps in better shape after his tour. Good performance by Kate Aldred as Katherine. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

NEW RELEASES

CHASING AMY (19): Comic-book artist finds himself in love with a lesbian. Appearing new film from director Kevin Smith, with Ben Affleck and Joey Lauren Adams. Chaplin Picture House (0171-438 8881). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

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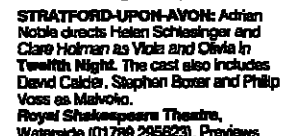
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Huddersfield The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival launches its 20th season with a visit by the Vienna Art Orchestra. Entitled An Echo from Europe, from Django Reinhardt to Django Bates, the evening's programme features a mix of jazz and classical sounds with music by Barry Guy, Courtney Pine, Jan Garbarek, the two Djangos, and many more. Lawrence Batley, Queen's Square (01484 430628). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL Yet another event with a strong Czech flavour takes place tonight as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under its principal conductor Petr Albrecht performs works by Dvořák and Mahler. A taste of Russia is added with a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 played by Boris Beizovsky. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-708 3788). Tonight, 7.30pm.

STRAFORD-UPON-AVON Arian Noble directs Helen Schreier and Clare Holman as Viola and Olivia in Twelfth Night. The cast also includes David Cadogan, Stephen Boxer and Philip Voss as Malvolio. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 255222). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 25, 7pm. In repertory.



Yakov Kreizberg swings the baton at the Barbican

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881), Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm. Until Nov 22.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, directed by Nicholas Wright. Royal National Theatre, St. James's Palace, SW1 (0171-434 5055). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

IN SCISSORSHIPS: Comedy. Whodunnit where the audience can play detective. Adapted by Neil Murray. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Manchester, M2 (0161-741 8701). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat, 4.30pm. Until Dec 22.

END OF THE AFFAIR: Jasper Britton and Caroline Fawcett in an adaptation of Graham Greene's novel, set during the London Blitz. Directed by Rupert Goold and first seen at Salisbury Playhouse. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

IN HENRY V: Michael Sheen plays the warlike Henry in Ron Daniels' production, not well reviewed in Stratford, perhaps in better shape after his tour. Good performance by Kate Aldred as Katherine. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8881). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thur and Sat, 2pm.

NEW RELEASES

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Gough: enjoying second spell at Rangers

Celtic may be a club of great traditions, but this evening they will be determined to avoid making history. If Celtic are beaten at home by Rangers, they will have lost six consecutive Old Firm matches in the league for the first time in their existence. Extreme measures may be taken in the attempt to pull up short of that dreaded milestone.

Darren Jackson has not played since undergoing brain surgery at the beginning of September, but there is a temptation to field him tonight, when his experience and strength may add vitality to the attack. In any case, Wm Jansen, the Celtic head coach, must be casting around for a replacement for Simon Donnelly, the young forward who has lost form.

Rangers have their con-

Rangers pursue joy of six

Kevin McCarr previews the second Old Firm encounter of the season

drums to resolve, too, particularly since Laudrup is liable to be unavailable, having tweaked his hamstring on Saturday. His club is adept at presenting an impression of calm. "If Laudrup isn't there," Richard Gough, the captain, said, "then we will have to play the best Scotland player of the moment, Gordon Durie."

Some will detect a kernel of arrogance in that serenity, but Gough is simply exuding the confidence of a man who has relished a long ascendancy over Rangers' rivals. He returned to Ibrox last month, after a spell with Kansas City Wizards, and has seemed to be sauntering profitably through his matches since.

The central defender scored the only goal of the game against Celtic 11 days ago. His celebrations on that occasion saw him raise both hands and some observers thought that he was indicating a desire to win a tenth successive Scottish League premier division title this season. Gough scoffs at that notion and claims that the gesture is a mine for "lifting the roof off" and derives from sport in the United States.

"I told Ally McCoist and Paul Gascoigne about it," he said, "because I never thought I would be doing it." Life is exceeding his expectations at present. Even Gough, 35, admits that Rangers would not have troubled to resign him if Alan McClaren and Breznan Anossov had been fit. "I have nothing to prove to anyone else," he said, "but I have proved to myself that I have a touch of hunger left in me."

Gough professes to find a pleasant mystery in the sustained domination of Celtic, since the Old Firm fixture is ritually claimed to be unpredictable. He has also had a recent opportunity to gauge the narrow margins that can separate the sides. "In the last game," Gough said, "we played as well as we have against Celtic in a long time, but we still only won 1-0 and they could have gone ahead."

Celtic, on the other hand, remember only the impoverished nature of their performance that afternoon. Their hopes of now atoning for it, and of recording the victory that would see them draw level with Rangers on points in the premier division, are hampered by the absence of Blinkin, who was sent off on Saturday. The side has also lacked creativity in losing its

RUGBY UNION

Wales get ten days to prepare for All Blacks

THE leading clubs in Wales have agreed to an early release of their international players for the match against New Zealand at Wembley on Saturday week. Kevin Bowring, the coach, will have ten days' uninterrupted build-up after the clubs complied with his wishes.

"The national team management accepted the need for the players to prepare properly for the Heineken Cup campaign with their clubs," a spokesman for the Welsh Rugby Union said.

"It was recognised how important that was to their prospects and we welcome the fact that the clubs have seen fit to return the favour with the New Zealand game approaching."

Eddie Jones, the Pontypridd manager, confirmed the spirit of co-operation. "We are all behind the union's playing directorate and the national team," he said. "If Wales don't achieve a degree of respectability against New Zealand, then we are all in trouble."

After receiving unanimous backing from his players' employers, Bowring can now concentrate fully on the most daunting challenge that he has faced since he was appointed as coach of Wales two years ago.

He will announce a squad tomorrow morning and is expected to include Allan Bateman and David Young, the British Isles pair who missed the 46-12 victory over Tonga last Sunday through injury.

However, Steve Moore, the second-row forward, has been ruled out because of a knee injury that forced him to leave the field against Tonga. A scan has revealed ligament damage and the Moseley lock will be out of action for at least six weeks.

Andy Moore, his brother, began his comeback from injury with 20 minutes on the field for Swansea against Cardiff in the Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Trophy game last Saturday. The former Wales second-row forward has had a knee reconstruction and has been on the sidelines since 1995.

Australia's tour pride may prevail

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICHIE DIXON, the Scotland coach, insisted yesterday that Australia will provide his new-look side with a stern challenge on Saturday, despite their unconvincing recent form under Rod Macqueen, their new coach.

After losing in Argentina and only managing a draw against England at Twickenham last Saturday, the Australians are under pressure to finish their tour on a high note at Murrayfield.

As Scotland have named an attack-minded line-up, including James Craig, the promising new wing, some pundits are optimistic about their chances of earning a surprise victory against the winners of the World Cup in 1991.

However, Dixon maintained that Scotland's task remains a daunting one and he warned of a possible backlash on Saturday. "Australia have a proud record in this country and, make no mistake, they will be very strong opponents for us," the Scotland coach said.

"I watched their game with England and both sides would be disappointed that the play did not develop as they would have liked. But, with any new coach, it takes time to come up with ultimate conclusions on the way you want to play and Rod is still developing the style he wants."

"If it develops in the same way as with Australian Capital Territories team, then the world can expect some very exciting football from Australia in next couple of years."

Dixon confirmed that he had no qualms about selecting Duncan Hodge to replace the injured Rodney Shepherd at full back, despite the lack of senior experience of the player in the role.

The Watsonians and Edinburgh player will also assume the goal-kicking responsibilities in only his second international, the other being an appearance as substitute against France last year.

"Duncan has been involved in our national squad sessions at full back. We picked the side with a particular way of playing in mind and rather than interfere with the back-line set-up, we decided on a straight one-to-one swap."

Milosevic on the mat over talk of transfer

By RICHARD HOBSON

SAVO MILOSEVIC will tread a familiar path into the manager's office at Aston Villa today when he is called to explain his latest public outburst against the club. If he is trying to manoeuvre a transfer with his persistent criticism, he will be told by Brian Little that his responsibility will remain at Villa Park.

Little has denied that Napoli have submitted an offer of £4.5 million for Milosevic, even though the striker was reported in a Yugoslav newspaper as saying that he knew of interest from the Italian club. Milosevic also said that he had wanted to leave Villa "for a long time" and was unhappy in Birmingham.

Three weeks earlier, when Milosevic last returned to his national squad for the first leg of the World Cup qualifying game against Hungary, he was quoted in a Belgrade magazine as being critical of Stan Collymore, his Villa colleague. Little said that he had accepted an explanation that Milosevic had been misquoted on that occasion; this time, his response may be more forthright.

"Savo has always hankered after Italy, but he knows that his duty is to play for Aston Villa and he should be concentrating on that," Little said. A year ago, Milosevic travelled to Italy to sign for Perugia when Villa accepted a £4.5 million offer, only to pull out as negotiations dragged on.

His form for Villa has rarely been better than moderate after joining them from Partizan Belgrade for £3.5 million in 1995, but he enjoys a handsome reputation abroad. He scored ten goals in the World Cup qualifying campaign, helping Yugoslavia to the finals.

With Benfica in Portugal and Borussia Dortmund, the European Cup winners from Germany, reportedly monitoring the situation, Villa would make a profit if they decided to sell. They have an option to extend Milosevic's contract by

a year when it expires at the end of the season.

The disenchantment of one man in a dressing-room can spread quickly. Sasa Curcic, Gareth Southgate and Dwight Yorke have, to varying degrees, been critical of aspects of the club of late. Whether it would be prudent to offload Milosevic, 24, while Villa are still in the UEFA Cup and trying to recover ground in the FA Cup, is another matter, particularly as Collymore, who saw a specialist yesterday, is still in light training after an operation on his sinuses a month ago. "There is no logic in selling anybody at the moment," Little said.

Premiership clubs, which are anxious to maintain their share of income from BSkyB, the television company, have given the Football League 12 months' notice that they want to change the relegation and promotion system and their participation in the Coca-Cola Cup. They want two-up and two-down instead of three and for clubs to be allowed to opt out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

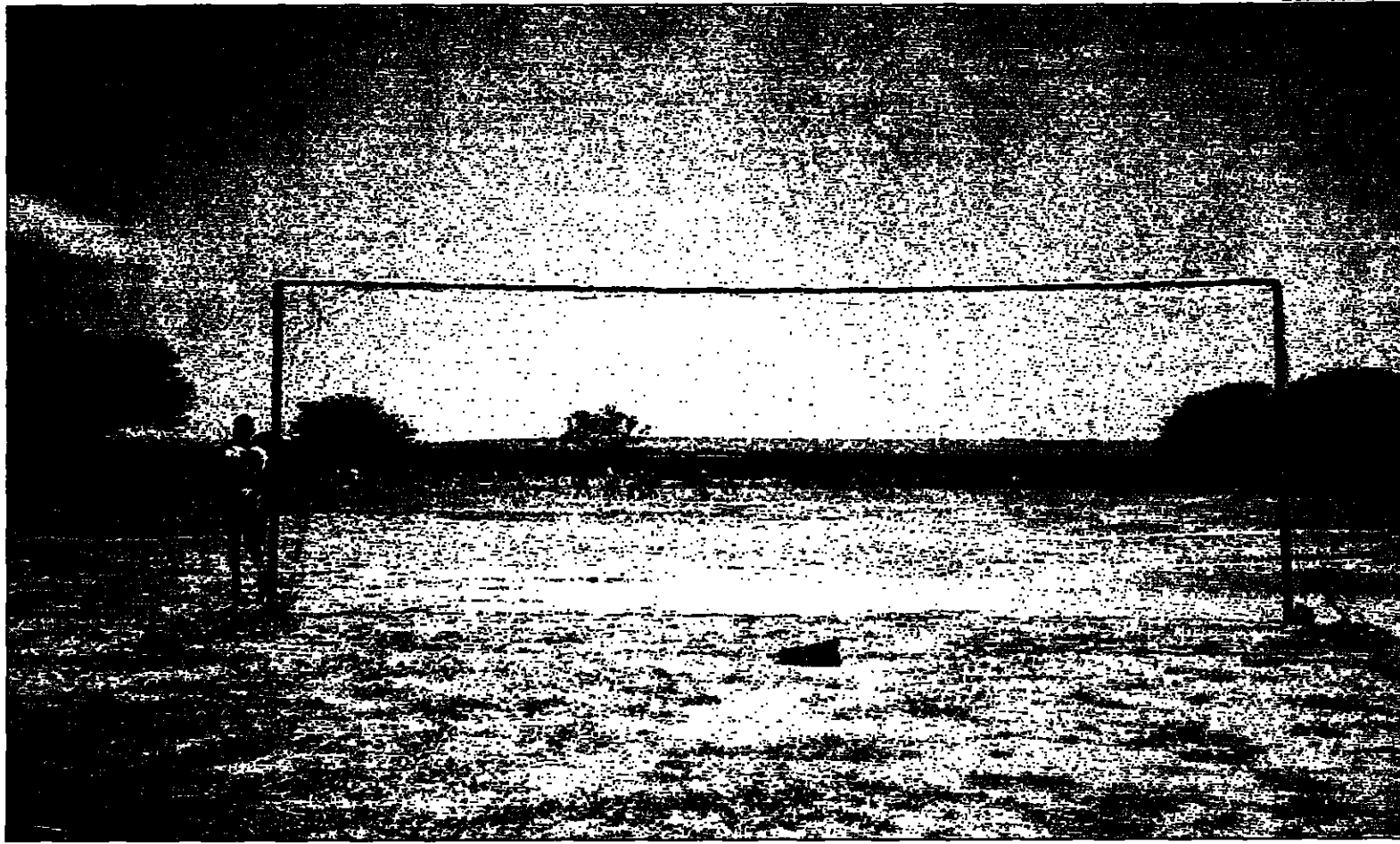
The Football League insisted yesterday that the original agreement drawn up between itself, the FA Premier League and the Football Association was still binding, although it was prepared to hear the new demands.

"The Premier League has given a year's notice that it wants to re-negotiate a new agreement," Dennis Signy, a spokesman for the League, said. "The Football League reply to that was that it was not possible and that is where we stand at this stage."

"We have said without prejudice: Tell us what you want so we can see if there is any negotiation or bartering to do." But there is no end to the original agreement.

Franchising clubs are parsing the situation, Villa would make a profit if they decided to sell. They have an option to extend Milosevic's contract by

"We now expect Thursday's meeting of the league management committee to ratify to-



Manning his post: a young goalkeeper watches the action from afar during a match in the Zambian border village of Livingstone

Livingstone explores new horizons

Inigo Gilmore meets a British sporting missionary who is bringing organised sport to an African village

WHEN Andrew Fairbairn arrived in the dilapidated Zambian border town of Livingstone, the sports-mad locals thought Christmas had come early. In a town where most people play sport in bare feet, the prospect that this "muzungu" [white man] would turn up with footballs, boots and track suits had raised expectations in the community to fever pitch.

When he arrived with little more than the shirt on his back and it dawned on them that Fairbairn was not, in fact, a bearer of gifts, there were murmurs of disappointment. However, six months on, they recognise that he has brought something much more valuable.

"It was not easy to start with because they just wanted material things," Fairbairn, who used to work at the gym at the House of Commons, said. "Even after I told them about my plans, they would say things like: 'Well, that's fine, but could you just give us a ball.' They still want the balls, but the attitude is different now."

In Livingstone, Fairbairn, 23, a volunteer with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), has been running training programmes for FE teachers and local coaches covering every-

thing from leadership and organisational skills to fund raising and using sports facilities. In a short time, his programme has begun to transform the face of sport in the area in ways that were previously unimaginable.

It has been a slow process and one that has required patience and flexibility. "To begin with, it was frustrating because people would turn up late for the seminars and then go around greeting everyone in the room before finally sitting down," Andrew said. "I had to learn to accept that this was the way things worked around here and fit my values into theirs. The pace is different."

More than a hundred years after David Livingstone, the British explorer, clapped eyes on the nearby Victoria Falls, the town named after him is like a gaping mouth without teeth. Fairbairn quickly discovered that travelling anywhere by road is an adventure and working places are scarce. In the week of my visit, a couple of policemen turned up at our hotel to beg for petrol

money so that they could chase after thieves who had robbed the local bank.

The impoverished local population might be short on resources and punctuality, but Fairbairn has discovered that the community possesses unlimited enthusiasm. The locals were quick to accept him as one of their own - a point that was obvious during a visit to an adult education college.

In some alive with noise, colour and dedication, Fairbairn presided over a



Fairbairn: fulfilled

tournament involving football, basketball, volleyball and netball teams of varying ages and shared a few lighthearted moments with the local people. Under his watchful gaze, a group of coaches shepherded teams on and off the pitches and shouted encouragement to the players. One of them explained that the scenario was novel for them.

"Before, it was pretty chaotic because we would just see who turned up and start without a warm-up," David Kalambo said. "But now we use sketch boards to plan everything so that we do not waste our time and energy. This programme has opened our minds and given us a new, enthusiastic outlook."

"The fact that the sports are properly organised and planned has really motivated us," Maria Chitsulo, 21, a student who plays football, netball and volleyball, said. "We used to turn up to play a game and sometimes after waiting all day return to our rooms without kicking a ball because our opponents did not show up."

"Now we are seeing our performance improve because we can direct our energies knowing we will play and play at the arranged time."

Since its introduction in 1994, the VSO's sports development programme has expanded from a handful of coaches to about 30 volunteers working around the world. Sports initiatives such as the one Fairbairn has undertaken are accepted, as a powerful force in development.

Of the three locations in Zambia offered to Fairbairn, he chose Livingstone because no sports initiatives had previously been attempted there. As well as the frustrations of having to travel huge distances on his motorcycle, he has had to endure energy-sapping stomach problems and take pills daily to avoid contracting malaria.

Fairbairn is eagerly awaiting his return to Britain next year because, as well as the personal satisfaction he has gained, he believes that his spell in Livingstone will have been a good career move. "Some people are reluctant to join a VSO project because they think it will hinder their career, but I think, if anything, it makes you more marketable and I would recommend it to anyone."

New Scottish league likely

PLANS by the ten Bell's Scottish League premier division clubs to establish a new Scottish Premiership by August were backed at two special general meetings of the Scottish League at Hampden Park yesterday.

Votes ranged from 49-29 to 46-32, which means that two or three first division clubs lent their support to the top-flight teams. The breakaway clubs plan to increase membership of the new Premiership to 12 in its second year. The matter will go before the league management committee on Thursday for approval.

Lex Gold, the Hibernian chairman and spokesman for the ten premier division clubs, said: "Today's decision by Scotland's clubs to vote overwhelmingly in favour of our plans represents a major step forward for the game in this country."

"It is clear from today's result that Scottish football can see the benefits of our proposals, which have been developed with the game's best and long-term interest in mind."

"We now expect Thursday's meeting of the league management committee to ratify to-

day's result. We are keen that everyone in the game contributes constructively to the blueprint for Scottish football's bright new future. The hard work starts now."

Manchester United aim to make shares in the club available to more people in a proposal to go before the annual meeting at Old Trafford today. Shareholders will be asked to approve a proposal to issue three shares for every one held as the club increases its share capital by 337.5 per cent to £35 million, creating 270 million new shares.

Redknapp wants end to bad habit

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HARRY REDKNAPP, the West Ham United manager, has warned his players that they must bring to an end the club's unenviable record of being knocked out of cup competitions by sides from lower divisions.

Last season, West Ham lost to Wrexham in the third round of the FA Cup and to Stockport County in the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Although Redknapp's first team this season is almost unrecognisable from the line-up a year ago, he has told his new recruits that they must raise their game for the Coca-

Cola Cup fourth-round tie at home to the second division strugglers, Walsall, tonight.

"Over the years, matches like this have always been banana skins for West Ham and that record has to end," he said. "We have to make sure we're ready. We had Huddersfield at home in the round before last and that was a difficult game as well, although we won 3-0."

"Last year, I felt I did not have a team that was capable of beating anybody, to be honest, we could not score any

goals. It's all changed now. It's a different football club. Suddenly, without having spent a lot of money, we've got a playing staff worth an awful lot of money for the first time in a long time."

Over the past 12 months, Redknapp's revolution has brought in players such as John Harrison, Paul Kitson, Ian Pearce, David Unsworth, Eyal Berkovic, Andy Impey and Steve Lomas, coupled with the emergence of younger players such as Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard.

Confidence at the club is high, especially with Kitson on the road to recovery from a hernia injury that has kept him out for two months - with Redknapp confident he will be fit to face Aston Villa at home a week on Saturday. West Ham are taking the Coca-Cola Cup seriously, even though there is no certainty of a place in the UEFA Cup for the winner.

"Manchester United and maybe Arsenal did not place a great deal of importance on it, but everybody else has," Redknapp said. "We are due a day out at Wembley. Everyone involved in the competition wants to get there, even if

there is no place in Europe at the end of it. But that may change and there may be a place after all as the Football League are pushing for it to be reformed."

Redknapp will give late fitness tests to his wing backs, Tim Breaker, who has been training this week despite a hamstring problem, and Impey, who is recovering from a foot injury.

However, Harrison, the club's leading scorer, has been declared fit after an injury scare after West Ham's last Premiership match, at Chelsea, and he may be partnered up front by new signing, Sami Alou, who would be making his full debut.

Meanwhile, Redknapp confirmed that West Ham have put behind them the on-pitch scuffle between two teammates, Berkovic and John Moncur, during the Chelsea game at Stamford Bridge. He said the "players" had apologised to each other.

The Walsall central defender, Ian Roper, has been ruled out after failing a fitness test on his knee. Roper, 20, will be replaced either by the veteran player-coach, Derek Mountfield, or the former England Under-21 defender, Stuart Ryder.

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12/2 1-1 22/1		
13/2 2-0 22/1		
15/2 2-1 16/1		
10/1 3-0 66/1		
10/1 3-1 50/1		
28/1 3-2 40/1		
22/2 0-0 17/2		
6/1 1-1 6/1		
14/1 2-2 14/1		
Other scores on request.		
DOUBLE RESULT		
CHELSEA 1-0 CHELSEA 11/8		
CHELSEA 1-0 DRAW 14/1		
CHELSEA 1-0 SOUTHAMPTON 40/1		
DRAW CHELSEA 4/1		
DRAW DRAW 9/2		
DRAW SOUTHAMPTON 10/1		
SOUTHAMPTON CHELSEA 25/1		
SOUTHAMPTON DRAW 44/1		
SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON 9/1		
Bets void if 2nd half not started.		
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Athletes who have ability but no class will never be great



Jonah Lomu and the All Blacks are the ultimate bullies: Hick, the ultimate flat-track bully; Cole, a reformed flat-tracker; and McEnroe, a classic non-bully

An old sporting phrase slipped into my mind as I watched New Zealand put 52 unanswered points past Ireland on Saturday. The phrase was "flat-track bully". Not altogether inappropriate, because the phrase was a New Zealanders' contemptuous assessment of the talents of Graeme Hick a few years back.

The ability to dismiss inadequate opposition is nothing to be sneezed at. It is a job that needs to be done and the All Blacks, once they had found their stride, were relentless, merciless, utterly unforgiving. Ireland needed to be beaten and were soundly beaten. If New Zealand were, indeed, flat-track bullies in the second half, one can only use the term admiringly.

The term was not used admiringly of Hick. It implied a limitation. It meant that Hick was a superb player against poor opposition and in favourable conditions. There was probably no better man in the world when it came to the task of destroying inadequate bowlers.

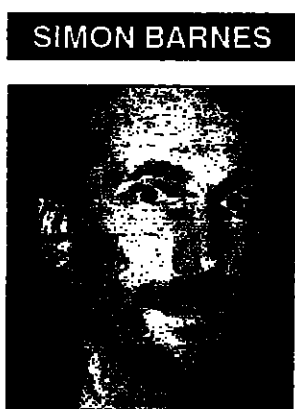
If ever you needed someone to score a century against Holland, then Hick was your man — Why not? Someone has

If you cannot beat the best, be a bully

to do it — but when Hick came to face the best bowling in the world, something went out of him. It was never his ability to play cricket that was in question. That elusive and terrible failing has made Hick one of the most fascinating sporting conundrums of all times.

Entire teams can take on the mantle of the flat-track bully. Rangers have little option to do anything else. Europe routinely and inevitably finds them out. Manchester United showed signs of going the same way. Domestic football seemed as if it was becoming easy. They put nine goals past Ipswich Town a couple of seasons ago, with Andy Cole, a flat-track bully within a flat-track bully team, scoring five. But Europe found them out.

It is vastly to the credit of the team and the manager that this season, United, and Cole within it, have transcended



their flat-track bully status. So far, they have bullied the hapless at home and confidently taken on the best of Europe as well. It is no small matter to acquire the status of a flat-track bully and then go beyond it.

Yet at least with teams it is clearly possible to do so. With

individuals, it is, perhaps, out of the question. Interestingly, the ability to bully the inadequate is not an essential part of the armoury of a champion. Some great champions have possessed almost nothing of this quality. John McEnroe is a classic example of the non-flat-track bully. His lack of this quality almost literally drove him mad. Note that his ghastly temper tantrums only ever came when he took on players a good way below him in the rankings.

When he could not get his mind around the straightforward task of a straight-sets win against a journeyman, the devils would gather and the barley water would start to fly. Note that he never mislaid the marbles in a grand-slam final. He never snarled when he played Bjorn Borg.

Borg, too, often lacked the quality of flat-track bully. He would normally need some near-disaster, some wobbly five-setter in the early rounds at Wimbledon, before his mind focused on his target. In contrast, Richard Krajicek, who won the men's singles title last year, did so in the manner of a flat-track bully, after taking his chance against an unfit and out-of-sorts Pete Sampras on the way.

People such as Krajicek and Hick are just as good as the very top men, sometimes they are even better, but they do not normally win. They do not often make big scores against the very best. Why is this?

My mind goes back to horses, as it tends to, and to that indefinable thing called class. It happens, often enough, that faster horses do not wish to overtake slower ones. It is to do with dominance hierarchy, a race being a temporary herd. It is a question of knowing your place, a matter summed up for all time in the phrase "cheep horses know it".

A true flat-track bully, team or individual, has ability without class. He has everything it takes to be a top dog except the will. Every flat-track bully is a cheap horse and, in his heart, he knows it.

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Answers from page 48

AUTARIAN

(a) Pertaining to or characteristic of a hall in a collegiate university, especially in respect to its power of self-administration. From the Latin *aula* a hall. "As the foundation of this establishment marks a new era in the academic annals of this University, it is not without reason that the name of New College should still attach to this erection. Before this period, however, the Autarian system was generally prevalent."

FASCINATOR

(a) A head shawl worn by women, either crocheted or made of a soft material. "Doris, in a pink cloak trimmed with swansdown and a candy-striped fascinator over her dark head, stepped out."

CLEIDOIC

(a) Closed up. Applied to an egg enclosed in a shell or membrane. From the Greek *kleidōō*, *kleis*, *kleidōō* a key. "The history of the steps which led to the cleidoic egg is the history of eggs in general."

DYBBUK

(a) In Jewish folklore, the malevolent spirit of a dead person that enters and controls the body of a living person until exorcised, a kind of incubus and succubus. From the Hebrew *dibbuk* to cling or cleave. "An old Jew who muttered jargon into a rabbit's beard as if saying a spell against Dybbuks."

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MOTOR RACING

Coulthard upset over sacrifice at Jerez

DAVID COULTHARD said yesterday that he was upset when his McLaren team ordered him to allow Mika Hakkinen, his team-mate, to pass him and claim victory in the European Grand Prix that ended the season last month.

The Scot said that he was set to win the race at Jerez, Spain, before the command came through from the pits to allow the pursuing Hakkinen through. "The reason I was disappointed was that there had been no discussion before the race about the possibility of that situation," Coulthard said. "But Mika deserved the win. It is important to remember that it is a team sport."

Coulthard also defended the penalty of community work that was given to the Ferrari

driver, Michael Schumacher, after his ramming of the Williams car of Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion, in the race.

There was widespread criticism of the punishment, which also included stripping the German of his second place in this year's Formula One world championship. The ruling was given by FIA, the world governing body of motor sport.

"To ban him for a couple of races would not be healthy for the sport and a fine would hardly dent his £30 million-a-year salary," Coulthard said. "The fact that he has to spend time in the off-season with young people is fine. The fact that there has been a spotlight on his actions will make him think again."

SAILING

Swedes set pace for Fremantle

SWEDISH MATCH. The leaders in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World yacht race, reassessed themselves yesterday in the gruelling Southern Ocean.

Christer Bejerot, the skipper, and his crew have endured rough seas and a broken rudder and seen their lead cut by 200 miles by the backmarkers.

However, for 12 hours yesterday, they were the fastest boat in the fleet, with an average speed of 18 knots. Bejerot said: "We have been feeling like a hunted animal for the last day and a half, but limping round the Kerguelen Islands, we found new food and energy and now we are on the run again."

Swedish Match was 1,717.6 miles from Fremantle, Australia, yesterday and, at the present rate of progress, could complete the second leg of the race by Monday.

Innovation Kvaerner remained second, 326 miles behind, having gained 8.4 miles yesterday morning. However, the Norwegian boat lost time while the crew repaired damage to the bow and replaced batteries in the mainsail, enabling Toshiba to move 60 miles closer in third place.

After the repairs were completed, Kvaerner reached a speed of 20 knots.

"We got the thing down and took it easy for a while when I considered that we had gone beyond the safety limit," Knut Frostad, the Kvaerner skipper, said. "The wind dropped a bit before we got something bigger up — and now we're flying again."

More murder for Morse

Inspector Morse
ITV, 8.00pm (not STV or Grampian)

Devotees of John Thaw's grumpy, opera-loving detective can be assured that his 31st televised case is well up to the standard of the previous 30. The series may have been running since 1987 but the formula has changed little and at this rate old Morse could still be going strong well into the next century. By now the appeal of the show lies in feeling comfortable with predictable ingredients. When a young woman is shot dead in her home and an Oxford college prepares to choose a new Master, we can be sure that the two are linked. We know that the unravelling of the crime will be leisurely and convoluted. We can relish (all too briefly) James Croun's inimitable Chief Super and savour the contributions of the usual quality-cast which tonight includes Richard Briers, John Shrapnel and Maggie Steed.

The Real Holiday Show
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Girl power is the theme of tonight's show in which all the featured holidaymakers are female. Just how much power Sarah and her friends possess is limited by the fact that her Dad comes to Spain with them. They are only 15 and taking their first holiday together and he feels they need a chaperon. Being a probation officer, he says, means he is used to taking groups of delinquents away (joke). The self-styled Shaggy Spice needs a body to look after them as they live it up in Magaluf. One describes it as 14 Friday nights on the trot. Drink and sex loom large, especially the former. After this it is a relief to turn to three women in their 80s and to hear about their trip to St Petersburg, where they sampled the vodka and the Metro and were relieved that the food was not as bad as they had expected.

Modern Times: The Bubble
BBC2, 9.00pm

They call it the bubble because it insulates them from real life. Daniel Reed's film is set in Meribel, a ski resort in the French Alps, and features three Britons who, in their various ways, have gone there to escape. Henrietta, a 23-year-old from Henley-on-Thames, has signed on as a chalet girl

Chalet girls take a break (BBC2, 9.00pm)

for five months. She gets £55 a week, with free board and lodging, and it saves her having to decide what to do with her life. Andy also cleans out chalets, though at 32 he realises he is getting a bit old. But, as with Henrietta, it is an excuse not to face up to the real world. The third subject, Tony, is a headhunter who earns so much money working three days a week in London that he can afford to spend most of his time in Meribel. But bubbles tend to burst and as the season ends, the trio must come out of their cocoon and face the world.

Secret Lives: L. Ron Hubbard
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The founder of the Church of Scientology, this profile observes "spent much of his later life at sea, on the run from those who accused him of being a crook or a charlatan". Disappointingly, perhaps, the film fails to resolve these charges one way or the other. All the same, it is hardly a flattering portrait, even though it is largely based on the testimonies of Hubbard's close associates. As the way with leaders of cults, Hubbard had a way of getting people to do his bidding. "I was overwhelmed," recalls one supporter, Cyril Vosper. "I was meeting God with plus signs." The irony highlighted by the film is that the man who claimed to cleanse the minds of others failed with his own. He became dictator, paranoid and egotistical and died a recluse. But the church continues to protect his image. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

- Late Night Opening: The Iguanodon**
Radio 4, 11pm
- The *Late Night Opening* comedy slot has its ups and downs, as comedy slots tend to do, but this, the start of a three-parter by Paul Lucas, is one of the up, especially for those who enjoy a mixture of history and working-class humour. It is a comedy of history we'd all run out of breath. Passenger: "That's punctuation, captain." The impetus for the drama is the attempt by Mr Brooks (Bernard Cribbins) to have an unforgettable sea voyage after "a lifetime in customs". The unplanned lighthouse rendezvous is the start, rather than the end of the comedy. The comedy is a comedy of history we'd all run out of breath. Passenger: "That's punctuation, captain." The impetus for the drama is the attempt by Mr Brooks (Bernard Cribbins) to have an unforgettable sea voyage after "a lifetime in customs". The unplanned lighthouse rendezvous is the start, rather than the end of the comedy. The comedy is a comedy of history we'd all run out of breath. Passenger: "That's punctuation, captain." 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Doorstepping the doorsteppers for the truth

If Jehovah's Witnesses didn't insist on knocking on the front door the second after you've stepped into the bath, you wonder what we would do to complain about. But over-familiar with God (how do they know that first name terms are OK?), preoccupied by Satan and certainly more than a keyhole short of a vaulted ceiling when it comes to architecture, but apart from that a decent enough bunch.

That was the main problem with last night's *Cutting Edge: The End is Nigh* (Channel 4). Despite the big come-on offered by the narration: "Although Jehovah's Witnesses are happy to come round to your house at inconvenient moments, this is the first time they have let us into their private world," Chris Shepherd's film was about as revealing as *The Watchtower's* wildlife edition. Just rather more fun.

Being a Jehovah's Witness, we

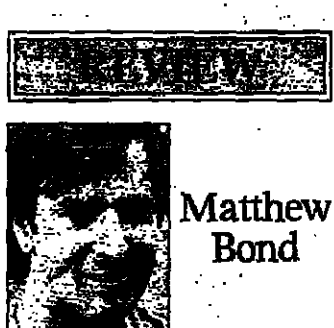
learned, was all about living within The Truth. Being a modern documentary-maker, we all already knew, is all about getting The Sex in early - and Shepherd set about his task enthusiastically. Not that it was difficult when the congregation at Kingdom Hall, Abingdon, included Maurizio, a Cuban-born former circus acrobat who now passes his day as a Lycra-dad aerobics instructor. Any man would be more than happy to forsake their Saturday morning ablutions, if they knew it was Maurizio at the front door.

But any man would not get a look-in. Relationships are supposed to be conducted within The Truth, which was good news for Matthew, a lanky computer programmer who - in the outside world run by Satan - would have stood as much chance of landing a Maurizio as he would a Melinda Messenger. To be fair, he had the look of a man who knew full well

that all his Christmases had come at once. "I just got mesmerised by those lovely green eyes," he explained; a comment which I thought had a hint of Satan about it, but because they were engaged, was apparently all right.

To be fair to Shepherd, he treated what in documentary terms was a sifting target with considerable restraint, allowing the happy couple time to be enchanting (it's a very loving, very close relationship), to admit to the frustration of abiding by church rules (we're human just like everybody else) and yet still deliver what he had after in the first place. When unchaperoned, Maurizio and Matthew had to have their meals where they could be seen - in a car parked outside her house.

Not that Shepherd seemed exactly awash with other material to fill his allotted time. The return of



Matthew Bond

the prodigal teenager, Rachel, from her Satan-strewn path (a breakdown, horse-rides, you name it, he got blamed for it) to baptism was charted in detail but there was virtually nothing on the origins of the Church, its funding or why they feel so impelled to go round knocking on doors telling the rest of us that the end is very nigh. One Witness admitted to getting rather fed up with it, but

what drives them all on is the hope that somebody, presumably in a moment of dripping, towel-ditching madness, lets slips the words: "I don't know what the world's coming to." They do, you see.

I don't know whether they've called on Sarah Hills yet in *EastEnders* (BBC1), but now might be a good moment. Having had the weekend to get over Joe, she's dedicating herself to a new life of... more schoolwork and longer hours at the church refuge. This is not promising, especially for Irene, the only mother in *EastEnders* who wants her teenage daughter to spend more time going to parties and meeting boys.

But things are looking more promising on other fronts, as the series catches its breath after the excitement and departures of last week. Lorraine, for so long the apple of his eye, may have gone, but Nigel's affections - unless I am mistaken - have already

moved on. After his home visit to Clare's teacher on Monday, we left him pondering a change of image. Into what, for goodness sake? As for Clare herself, she's now smitten by a floppy-haired adolescent who looks destined to be the male lead in a BBC period drama in about five years' time.

But that's far from all, as spring appears to have arrived months early in Walford. There's Robbie and Mary (please no), Phil and Annie (hmm, interesting), and most worrying, Ian and Ros, his private secretary. I often wondered what Clare Grogan would end up with, but never in a million years did I imagine it would be Ian Beale.

Elsewhere, television's current obsession with natural disaster continued with *Savage Earth* (ITV), a series which sets out to... pretty much where *Raging Planet* went on Channel 4 last Saturday and

Earth and Life will go on BBC2 this Friday. Watch all three and there'll precious little about volcanology you don't know.

While the starting-off point for *Raging Planet* was Montserrat, *Savage Earth* concentrated on Mount St Helens, the Washington State volcano which erupted in 1980, killing almost 60 people. With some lucky-to-be-alive survivors to tell the story and some astonishing time-lapse photography of half a mountain being blown away, it was gripping television, but clearly not gripping enough to have been rewarded with an earlier slot.

After that it got a bit more familiar - Italy, Iceland, Indonesia and eventually Hawaii, where we met a couple of volcano-breaks who had got married on a lava flow that was just three hours old. Of course, it was gone now, they said proudly. That's the crucial thing about apocalypses: timing.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (50068)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (55426)
 - 9.00am Not Cook, Won't Cook (1) (550258)
 - 9.25am Style Challenge (550203)
 - 9.50am Kilroy (1) (550258)
 - 10.30am Change That (1) (728187)
 - 10.55am The Really Useful Show (1) (7714797)
 - 11.35am Real Rooms (5611278)
 - 12.00pm News (1) and weather (567529)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (216187)
 - 12.35pm Give Us A Clue (212426)
 - 1.00pm News (1) and weather (56513)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (54317838)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (5668703)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (1) (4424097)
 - 2.05pm Quilley (1) (5280816)
 - 2.55pm Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (7947109)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (8131161) 3.50pm ChuckleVision (555757) 4.00pm The New Year's Own (580249) 4.30pm Out of Time (1757161) 5.00pm Newsworld (1) (5325884)
 - 5.10pm Blue Peter Behind the scenes of The Phoenix and the Carpet, a new BBC drama based on E. Nesbit's classic children's tale (1) (5278884)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (525180)
 - 5.50pm Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (703)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (155)
 - 7.00pm Face Value: Could a witch-doctor be the key to good looks? Plus: a look ahead to fashion at the turn of the century (1) (5628)
 - 7.30pm Tomorrow's World: Philippe Forrester reports on music-making using light waves for severely disabled children (1) (567)
 - 8.00pm Crime Beat: Police reveal some of the tactics used to catch the killer who tricked their way into people's homes (1) (5277)
 - 8.30pm The National Lottery Live (1) (771891)
 - 8.45pm Points of View (1) (502567)
 - 8.55pm Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (1) (285837)
 - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (1); Regional News and weather (6364)
 - 9.25pm National Lottery Update (162155)
 - 9.30pm Absolutely Fabulous: Jealousy: Edna nudges shoulders with the stars at a PR bash she has funded in the hope of bagging a series of awards (1) (21884)
 - 10.00pm The X-Files: Legendary monster killer El Chupacabra is cited as the likely cause of a series of deaths in a Mexican enclave (1) (511345)
 - 10.45pm Tom Jones: Period drama with Max Beesley, Brian Blessed and Samantha Morton (1) (136703) 10.55pm The First Wives Club (1) (50254) 11.15pm Tom Jones (473905) 12.00am Film: A Kiss Before Dying (361281) 1.40am Weather (5224584) 1.45pm BBC News 24 (17812)
 - 11.40pm A Kiss Before Dying (1991) with Matt Dillon, Sean Young, Max von Sydow and Diane Ladd. A handsome, charming psychopath murders his pregnant girlfriend and marries her twin sister. Directed by James Dearden (18850) Followed by Weather
 - 1.10am BBC News 24 (5586881)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Technology (72727) 6.30pm Talking Buildings (15364)
 - 7.00pm See Hear Breakfast News (1 and signing) (7983285)
 - 7.15pm Teletubbies (1) (4888088) 7.40pm Smurfs: Adventures (1) (223105) 8.05pm I'll Never Work (1) (221800) 8.30pm Model Make (1) (275513) 8.45pm The Record (501987) 9.10pm What? Where? Why? (598828) 9.25pm Express Express (2015242) 9.45pm Words and Pictures (4488616)
 - 10.00pm Teletubbies (56136) 10.30pm Numbertime (533695) 10.45pm Cats: Eyes (2084600) 11.00pm Around Scotland (1527354) 11.20pm The Geography Programme (3228425) 11.40pm Revista (1365203) 11.55pm Quilley Minutes: Plus (1796703) 12.10pm Science in Action (783819)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch (77790)
 - 1.00pm Noddy (1) (25911646) 1.10pm The Art and Antiques Hour (5268600) 2.10pm Going, Going, Gone (5240145) 2.40pm News (1) (227800) 2.45pm Westminster (1) (484255) 3.55pm News (1) (5055600)
 - 4.00pm Ready, Steady, Cook (23) 4.30pm Through the Keyhole (1) (1756432) 4.55pm Esther (503387) 5.30pm The Day (432)
 - 6.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (1) (160897)
 - 6.45pm Silders (1) (1) (3928)
 - 7.30pm Black Britain: Black firefighters driven out of their profession by racist taunts. Plus: a report on the first black dancer to join the Royal Ballet (1) (109)
 - 8.00pm Gary Rhodes: The wandering chef visits Tappes to cook for a woman's soccer team, with an average age of 82. (1) (3819)
 - 8.30pm Home Front: A modern country kitchen: the dangers of lead paint; two young sisters have their bedroom renovated (1) (9426)
 - 9.00pm Modern Times: An investigation into young Britons who shun Britain for a life on the self-styled (1) (72737)
 - 9.50pm Breaking News: A couple with a baby, whose relationship is disintegrating because the mother wants to stay at home while the father prefers to stay as they are, seek help from Patsy (1) (537242)
 - 10.30pm Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (342567)
 - 10.35pm Newsnight (1) (675033) 11.20pm Prison Weekly (1) (504168) 11.55pm Weather (555771) 12.00am The Midnight Hour (22952)
 - 12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (504031) 12.45pm Architecture: In Britain (5010758) 2.00pm Modern Languages (53117) 4.00pm Italianissimo 9-12 (23766) 5.00pm Business and Training (57559) 5.30pm RN Nursing Update (20581)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (4052548)
 - 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (1) (5405513)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (1) (5622242)
 - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (20242)
 - 10.30pm This Morning (1) (48371987)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (5163513)
 - 12.30pm News (1) and weather (2215451)
 - 12.55pm Shortland Street (2127242) 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (2694105) 1.50pm The Rockford Files (1) (5578068) 2.50pm Vanessa (1) (8331703)
 - 3.20pm News (1) (8343161)
 - 3.25pm Regional News (5642432)
 - 3.30pm Tots TV (387180) 3.40pm The Singing Kettle News (1158432) 3.50pm The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (5337109)
 - 4.20pm The Art Attack Strapbook (1) (5614141) 4.45pm Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (1) (1675513)
 - 5.10pm WALKER: PrimeTime Diary (1) (5801635)
 - 5.10pm No Naked Flames: The Work Experience (5801635)
 - 5.40pm News (1) and weather (575258)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (1) (1) (501155)
 - 6.25pm Regional weather (562100)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (1) (451)
 - 7.00pm Emmerdale: Zoe (Leah Bracknell) and Sophie (Jane Cameron) attend their first session at the clinic (1) (8797)
 - 7.30pm Coronation Street: Jon conceals an elaborate plan to secure Deirdre's future happiness (1) (535)
 - 8.00pm Inspector Morse: Death is Now My Neighbour With John Thaw, Kevin Whately (1) (1703)
 - 10.00pm Party Political Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (1) (100180)
 - 10.05pm News at Ten (1), Lottery Result and weather (405887)
 - 10.35pm Regional News (1) (337631)
 - 10.45pm WALKER: Who Dunit? Death on a Summer's Day (512780)
 - 10.45pm Conan the Destroyer (1984) with Arnold Schwarzenegger as the heroic warrior, in a sequel to Conan the Barbarian. With Grace Jones. Directed by Richard Fleischer (30838)
 - 11.15pm WALKER: Top Sport (500819)
 - 12.45pm Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (17876)
 - 1.15pm Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (55042)
 - 1.40pm Nurse on Wheels (1963, b/w) with Juliet Mills, Ronald Lewis and Joan Sims. Touching comic tale directed by Gerald Thomas (504278)
 - 3.10pm Jones and Jerry (1) (57002391)
 - 3.30pm Motor Racing (1) (1) (386730)
 - 4.20pm Cool Vibes (4040339)
 - 4.35pm The Time, the Place (1) (5313488)
 - 5.00pm Coronation Street (1) (1) (57310)
 - 5.30pm News (24407)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (2127242)
 - 1.50-5.40pm Shortland Street (5801635)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Central News (500180)
 - 10.45pm Central Sports Special (419722)
 - 11.45pm Antisocial of Disaster (545432)
 - 12.50pm Film: Absence of Malice (5786335)
 - 3.00pm Focus (583372)
 - 3.40pm The Good Sex Guide Late (5861310)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm Home and Away (294703)
 - 1.20-1.50pm Emmerdale (79394703)
 - 1.50-5.40pm Home and Away (5801635)
 - 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (17635)
 - 10.45pm Special Report (512780)
 - 11.15pm The Westcountry Match (468074)
 - 12.10pm Brian Clough's Early Years (5807136)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (5801635)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (571)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Put It to the Test (451)
 - 10.40pm The Meridian Match (3006074)
 - 11.45pm Beyond Reason (112744)
 - 12.15pm Meridian Masterclass (57335)
 - 5.00pm FreeScreen (57310)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm My Line (2127242)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (5801635)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (500180)
 - 10.35pm Anglia News and Weather (571513)
 - 10.50pm Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil (38848618)
 - Starts: 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (44364)
 - 9.00pm Yagalon (575221)
 - 11.30pm Powerhouse (5857)
 - 12.00pm Sesame Street (70618)
 - 12.30pm Rikid Lake (50278)
 - 1.00pm Slot Meltdown (74682154)
 - 1.15pm The Toc (7612659)
 - 1.30pm Gardens Without Borders (54211600)
 - 1.45pm Film: I Confess (74727432)
 - 3.00pm Collectors' Lot (529)
 - 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (364)
 - 4.30pm Dan Pearson: Routes Around the World (548)
 - 5.00pm Pump (5842277)
 - 5.15pm Film (5400529)
 - 5.30pm Countdown (500)
 - 5.50pm Newsnight (372971)
 - 6.10pm Hemo (175518)
 - 7.00pm Pabot y Cwm (746432)
 - 7.25pm Film: The Dragon (1000)
 - 8.00pm Slope (5897)
 - 8.30pm Dantiedad Gwilyddol Gan Y Demoriedad Rhyddidol (203242)
 - 8.35pm Newsnight (124242)
 - 9.00pm Cracker (745141)
 - 10.05pm Brookside (585906)
 - 10.40pm Babylon 5 (461882)
 - 11.30pm Looking for Ted (529371)
 - 11.50pm Under the Moon (56752600)
 - 4.30am Chinese Football (76020)
 - 5.00-5.30pm Screaming Reels (55562)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 7.00am The Big Breakfast (44364)
 - 9.00am School: Making Sense of Science (58180) 9.30am Good Health (1) (4495529) 9.45pm Book Box (1) (4310884) 10.00pm Stage Two Science (1) (4113559) 10.15pm Rake-Tat-Tat (1088780) 10.30pm Geographical Eye (1) (231252) 10.50pm Stop, Look, Listen (1) (565709) 11.00pm First Edition NZ (315906) 11.15pm The Mix (1) (3305529)
 - 11.30pm Powerhouse: Political magazine (5857) 12.00pm Sesame Street (70618) 12.30pm Light Lunch (54529) 1.30pm Gardens Without Borders (1) (54211600)
 - 1.45pm Brothers in Law (1957, b/w) Ian Carmichael, Richard Attenborough and Terry-Thomas star in this comedy about the legal profession, directed by Roy Boulton (1) (74727432)
 - 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (529) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (1) (364) 4.30pm Rake-Tat-Tat (1088780) 4.55pm Rikid Lake (1) (54211600) 5.30pm Pat Rescue (1) (500)
 - 6.00pm Gamesmaster: A new series of the computer games magazine, presented by Dominik Diamond with Patrick Moore. This week's featured game is Tomb Raider II (1) (1) (513)
 - 6.30pm Rosanne: A long hot soak in the bath is all Rosanne longs for (1) (1) (203)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (1) (503123)
 - 7.50pm Golden Oldies (267635)
 - 8.00pm Brookside: Jacqui considers the consequences of her first attempt at artificial insemination. Tim struggles to come to terms with rejection. Barry turns his attentions to Alisdair (1) (5887)
 - 8.30pm The Real Holiday Show: Gabby Roslin presents the video diaries of three groups of women spanning the generations. Five teenagers on their first holiday together go camping in Spain; ten 'Shedfield Space Girls' explore the delights of Magaluf; and three eightiesmiths take in the Russian sights (1) (3762)
 - 9.00pm Secret Lives: L. Ron Hubbard: The story of the science fiction writer who went on to found the Church of Scientology (1) (5093)
 - 10.00pm Caddyshack (1980) with Chevy Chase and Rodney Dangerfield. Comedy about an uncouth property developer who wants to buy an exclusive golf club and build on it. Directed by Harold Ramis (1) (406677)
 - 11.50pm Under the Moon Sports magazine (56752600)
 - 4.30am Chinese Football: The end of season clash between Shanghai and Tianjin (1) (70020)
 - 5.00pm Screaming Reels (1) (1) (55952)
 - 5.30pm Geographical Eye: River floods of 1995 (1) (1) (5631335)
 - 5.55pm Sesame Street (5381812)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.03 and 7.20 MHz.
- 8.00am 5 News Early (2257529)
 - 7.30pm Milkshake (1) (100571) 7.35pm Slickin' Around (5674722) 8.00pm HazeKazoo (1) (5447187)
 - 8.30pm WideWorld: Documentary series on human migration. Today, what it is like to be of Asian origin in Britain (9/10) (5897628)
 - 9.00pm Espresso (2562074) 10.00pm Exclusive (1) (5896426) 10.30pm Vanessa's Day With... Max Clifford (1) (1) (1948172)
 - 11.00pm Lezza (7217180) 11.50pm Double Espresso (5449180) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (2257878) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (5351513)
 - 1.00pm 5 News Update (5534183) 1.05pm Sunset Beach (1) (3233887) 2.00pm 5's Company (518155)
 - 3.30pm The Room Upstairs (1987) with Stockard Channing and Sam Waterston. The story of a fortysomething guest-house owner who falls for one of her clients - a callist. Directed by Stuart Margolin (505797)
 - 5.20pm 5's Company: Late Extra (1985074) 5.30pm Whistle (1) (5858335) 6.00pm 100 Per Cent (3655548)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs: Sue is apprehensive about Holly's decision (1) (5366600)
 - 7.00pm Exclusive: Soap stars who release pop records (5237074)
 - 7.30pm Dwellers of the Deep: Following a deep-water research team (1) (5262884)
 - 8.00pm Instant Gardens: William Van Hage and his team transform media mogul Peter Rabeum's roof terrace in the heart of London (5246722)
 - 8.30pm 5 News (1) (5232529)
 - 9.00pm K2 (1992) starring Michael Biehn and Matt Craven. Adventure about two American friends who join four other climbers in an attempt to scale the world's second-highest mountain. Directed by Franc Roddam (1) (5628345)
 - 11.00pm The Jack Docherty Show With Kylie Minogue and the Lightning Seeds (4265529)
 - 11.45pm Prisoner: Cell Block H (8063548)
 - 12.45pm Live and Dangerous: Includes American college football and baseball (3227407)
 - 4.35pm The Streets of San Francisco: Police drama series starring Karl Malden and Michael Douglas (1) (7224049)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (2487339)

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to find your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

Referee Gary Rhodes (8.00pm)

8.00pm Gary Rhodes: The wandering chef visits Tappes to cook for a woman's soccer team, with an average age of 82. (1) (3819)

Inspector Morse: Death is Now My Neighbour With John Thaw, Kevin Whately (1) (1703)

10.00pm Party Political Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (1) (100180)

1.15pm The Toc (7612659)

1.30pm Gardens Without Borders (54211600)

9.00pm Secret Lives: L. Ron Hubbard

The story of the science fiction writer who went on to found the Church of Scientology (1) (5093)

Jack Docherty entertains (11.00pm)

11.00pm The Jack Docherty Show With Kylie Minogue and the Lightning Seeds (4265529)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (504854) 9.00am Hotel (2557) 10.00am The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) Days of Our Lives (504854) 12.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 2.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 3.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 4.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 5.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 6.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 7.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 8.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 9.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 10.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 11.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 12.00am The 12th Deadly Sin (1140)
 - 6.00am Ghost of a Chance (1987) (2632305) 7.45pm Family Plot (1974) (178702) 9.45pm Last Temptation of Jesus (1986) (504854) 11.30pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 12.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140)
 - 6.00am Ghost of a Chance (1987) (2632305) 7.45pm Family Plot (1974) (178702) 9.45pm Last Temptation of Jesus (1986) (504854) 11.30pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 12.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140)
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- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 6.00am Sports Centre (2557) 7.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 8.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 8.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 9.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 9.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 10.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 10.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 11.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 11.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 12.00pm Sports Centre (2557)
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- EUROSPORT**
- 7.30am Eurosport (11118) 8.00pm World Cup Qualifiers (51818) 10.30pm ATP Tour Review (33722) 11.00pm Karling: North American Cup (21451) 12.00pm Wheelchair Hockey (2477) 12.30pm Florida Mania (51818) 1.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 2.00pm World Cup Review (33722) 3.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 4.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 5.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 6.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 7.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 8.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 9.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 10.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 11.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871) 12.00pm Theatrical Pulling (7871)
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- UK GOLD**
- 7.00pm World of Wonder (581333) 7.25pm Neighbours (585925) 8.00pm Countdown (255042) 8.25pm EastEnders (190703) 8.50pm The Bill (533580) 9.30pm Howards' Way (597258) 10.00pm Bliss: The House (597258) 10.30pm Bliss: The House (597258) 11.00pm Bliss: The House (597258) 11.30pm Bliss: The House (597258) 12.00pm Bliss: The House (597258)
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- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (2557) 7.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 8.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 8.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 9.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 9.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 10.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 10.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 11.00pm Sports Centre (2557) 11.30pm Sports Centre (2557) 12.00pm Sports Centre (2557)
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- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2**
- 6.00am Arty Adams and the Treasure of the Sea (1927) (4271) 8.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 9.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 10.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 11.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 12.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140)
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SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 6.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 7.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 8.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 9.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (1140) 10.00pm The 12th Deadly Sin (114

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Six finalists in William Hill book of the year

SPORT

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Pakistan build strong position against West Indies



Swiss manager to take over from Francis at White Hart Lane

Tottenham seek Gross profit

By DAVID MADDOCK

TOTTENHAM Hotspur will announce today that Christian Gross, at present in charge of Grasshopper Zurich, is to take over as manager. He will succeed Gerry Francis, who cleared his desk at White Hart Lane yesterday — almost three years to the day since he joined the club.

Gross, 43, will be in charge of the Tottenham team for the televised FA Carling Premiership match against Crystal Palace at home on Monday night. Romano Spadaro, the president of Grasshopper, said last night that Gross had already signed a contract and would be taking his assistant coach, Fritz Schmid, with him to White Hart Lane.

Spadaro also said that Gross had approached him ten days ago and had asked to be released from his contract, which was due to expire next summer. Spadaro had turned down three previous requests. "This time I couldn't refuse his request because one of the top

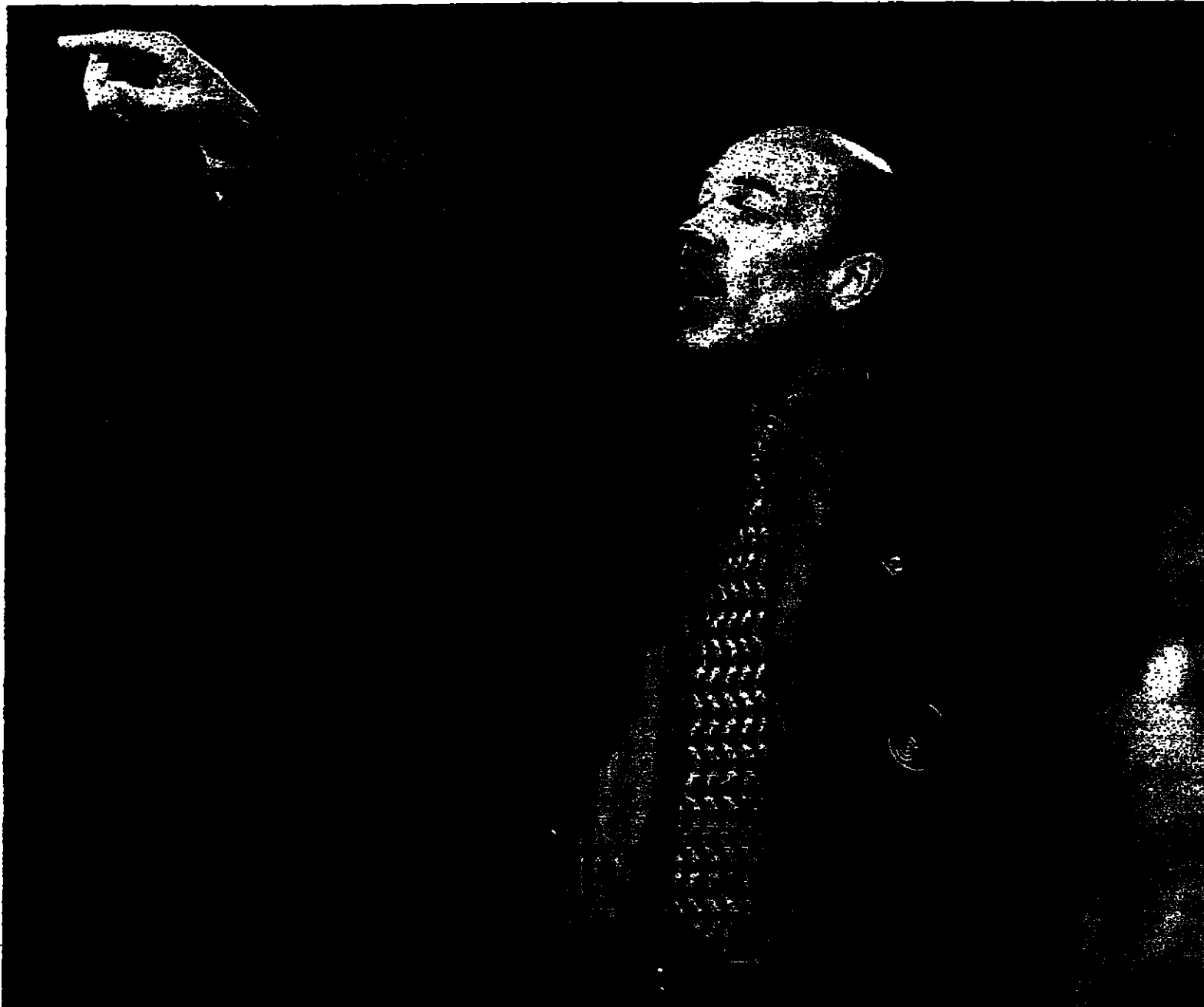
Firm favourite 48
Milosevic on the mat 48
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clubs in London has a higher calibre than Borussia Mönchengladbach, SV Hamburg or a Japanese club, which have all tried to get our trainer in the past two years," he said.

Gross's appointment finally brings to an end the saga of rumour and speculation surrounding Francis's position. He had come under extreme pressure from Tottenham supporters who bemoaned the team's lack of flair as they languished in sixteenth place in the Premiership, one point above the relegation zone.

It is understood that he had tried to resign on two separate occasions. He talked openly a week ago of assessing his future, after Spurs suffered an embarrassing 4-0 defeat away to Liverpool. Then he was told by Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, that he was required to stay at least until the end of the season, when his contract expired.

Last Sunday, Sugar said: "I



Pointing the way: Gross is the man that Tottenham are pinning their hopes on to revive the club after its declining fortunes in the Premiership.

don't think that a rudderless ship will help Tottenham in anyway. I hope that Gerry sees through his responsibility. Let us get to the end of the season and look at it again then."

Francis went in for training as usual yesterday, even though his players had been given a day off. He departed quickly, though, giving the

indication that there had been a dramatic change in his position.

In choosing Gross, a Swiss, Tottenham have followed the trend set by their London rivals, Arsenal and Chelsea, in appointing a continental coach. Bernie Kingsley, of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association, said last night: "He's a relatively unknown continental coach, but he could be just the thing to turn everything around."

Gross won the Swiss championship in 1995 and 1996 and qualified for the European Champions' League

in both seasons. They finished bottom of their group in 1995, but in 1996 they beat Rangers 3-0 in Zurich on the way to finishing third.

Francis's name will now be linked even more strongly with the vacancy at Queens Park Rangers, the club he managed for three years before he left to join Tottenham. The Nationwide League first division club recently parted company with Stewart Houston, their manager, and Bruce Rioch, his assistant. John Hollins is in charge at present in a caretaker role.

One person who may be

pleased to see the arrival of Gross at White Hart Lane is Ramon Vega, Tottenham's Switzerland defender, who played under Gross at Grasshopper. Several Spurs players, however, are thought to be unhappy with recent developments at the club and could be looking to leave.

Top of the list is Scott Campbell, the England central defender. He has been the subject of two inquiries already from Liverpool and it is understood that they have now tabled a third bid. Campbell turned them down during the summer, preferring in-

stead to sign a new four-year contract with Tottenham. Recently, though, he has indicated to close friends that he has become increasingly disaffected with life at White Hart Lane and would consider a move.

Spurs are unlikely to allow him to go readily, but Liverpool would be prepared to offer "Neil Ruddock, Jason McAteer and up to £4 million for the 23-year-old. That might sway Sugar, who is reluctant to spend any more money in the transfer market after a summer spending campaign of almost £15 million.

Woodward hits out at lack of top-class talent in England

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CLIVE WOODWARD painted a damning picture of the lack of genuine playing talent in England yesterday, four days before the rugby union international between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford. The national coach conceded that he could hope to field no more than two teams capable of extending the All Blacks, now generally acknowledged as the best team in the world.

It was a day for Woodward to confess his own shortcomings, after the disappointment of the drab 15-15 draw with Australia last Saturday. He also acknowledged criticism made by John Hart, coach to New Zealand, that the All Blacks were being required to play three England second-string XV's during their mid-week schedule.

"What John Hart says is correct and I agree with him," Woodward said. "But the stark reality is that we have two full Tests and three other fixtures and there is no way we can put out 60 players good enough to face New Zealand's two top sides."

In ideal circumstances, Woodward would have hoped to have four competitive divisional teams vying for a match, but he is not prepared to recommend fielding XV's that might concede 90 or 100 points to the All Blacks.

Woodward's problem is one that he shares with nearly every country in the world, so far have New Zealand elevated their playing standards above the rest. Scores of between 60 and 90 points have become commonplace, as Argentina and Ireland will testify this year, but Woodward's opinion is nevertheless at odds with that of Jack Rowell, his predecessor, who believed, after the England tour to Argentina last summer, that a strong playing base had been put in place.

"We are in an extremely serious situation and we know that when Roger [Utley] and I took over the management," Woodward said. "New Zealand have 150 contracted players, playing the right amount of games, which puts them massively ahead."

"I envy their players because they are part of a structure which allows them

to perform to their best. It's very hard for anyone without their system to compete against them. The guys I take my hat off to are the administrators, people like Hart, who have put them in that position."

"We in England are going through this exercise to see where we are. We have around 70 players in the first division [allowing for numerous overseas players], of whom we can dismiss 20 or 30 because they are just not good enough. We are short of ability, so we have selected the midweek teams for the right reasons, which is also a compliment to New Zealand and should allow their own second-choice players to improve."

It is Woodward's hope that the new Rugby Football Union administration will create a more favourable climate for

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Larder calls for unity 49
Fitzpatrick missing 49

the national side, by improving the playing structure and emphasising the need for clubs to release players, not only for the senior representative sides but for the under-21s, whose development Woodward sees as critical to a healthy future.

"We haven't got anything like the academy team that England will play when we tour New Zealand next year," he said. "It's a totally different culture. New Zealand give their national team top priority. We haven't got there yet."

Nevertheless, Woodward will sit down this morning to announce his team to play New Zealand on Saturday, having digested the lessons of the match against Australia and the game last night between England's emerging players and the All Blacks at Huddersfield.

The prime message from the game against Australia was the need for a more potent scrumgame. However, Woodward said: "It was a learning week for me. With hindsight, I don't think we prepared very well. Perhaps we tried to do too much in training, tried to fit too much in, which may have confused the players."

Uefa takes new look at video issue



Irwin suffered ligament damage

THE use of television evidence in disciplinary matters is to be reviewed by Uefa, the governing body of European football. The move has been initiated after Paul Bosvelt, the Feyenoord midfielder, escaped punishment for his tackle on Dennis Irwin, of Manchester United, in the European Cup Champions' League match two weeks ago.

Uefa says that it cannot discipline the player because the incident was not noted by any of its officials at the match, which United won 3-1 two weeks ago.

Television cameras captured Bosvelt stamping on Irwin's left knee and the United defender will be out until Christmas with ligament damage. In Great Britain, television evidence is often used

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

to punish players and Uefa admits that perhaps it is time it followed suit.

"The evidence used came from the reports from the officials at the game, but nothing was mentioned in them and that is why the player received no sanction," a Uefa spokeswoman said.

"For the moment, it is not our policy to use television evidence and we are in line with Fifa on that. We've never used it before, but that could change and at the moment it is under discussion."

"As TV evidence can't be used legally in these matters, we are unable to take action against the player. The issue of TV and video replays will be discussed within Uefa in

the coming months. Our lawyers will need to take a long hard look before we can think of introducing them as evidence."

Bosvelt was not even booked because Sandor Puhl, the referee, did not see the incident, although he was substituted immediately afterwards. The player has since described the tackle as "the biggest error of my career".

The Uefa spokesman said: "We received reports from the officials, but they apparently didn't see anything — therefore no action is to be taken against the Dutch player."

"There was nothing mentioned in the report from the referee, the referee and the linesman or the observer so we can't make any legal move against the player."

Coaches move out of the slow lane

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE it may be stretching a point to say that Kelly Holmes has developed into one of the leading middle-distance runners in the world courtesy of a grandfather's pension, British athletics has been dependent too long, in its quest for medals, on amateur coaches paying for the privilege of working with elite performers. Some of the hobby element is about to be removed.

In a programme announced yesterday, the coaches of Great Britain's best prospects for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney were awarded £450,000 over the next three years. Too often these coaches have been unable to give the athletes the attention they need because they could not afford it.

The new money may be used, for example, to assist the passage of coaches abroad for winter training with their

athletes. Dave Arnold, the coach of Holmes, would have been in South Africa last winter, but he had to watch his pocket. Instead, he coached her by phone and fax machine.

Arnold, a pensioner with seven grandchildren, spends thousands of pounds annually coaching Holmes and 14 other athletes aged 12 and upwards. Now he can apply, through Holmes, for up to £10,000 a year in assistance.

"It is nice to think that, in spite of all the problems that have occurred with the BAF [British Athletic Federation] going bust, coaches are going to be looked after more than

they have in the past," Arnold said. Arnold, 63, does not add up the money he spends on travel to training and competition, phone calls and equipment. "You just pay it out because you love the sport," he said.

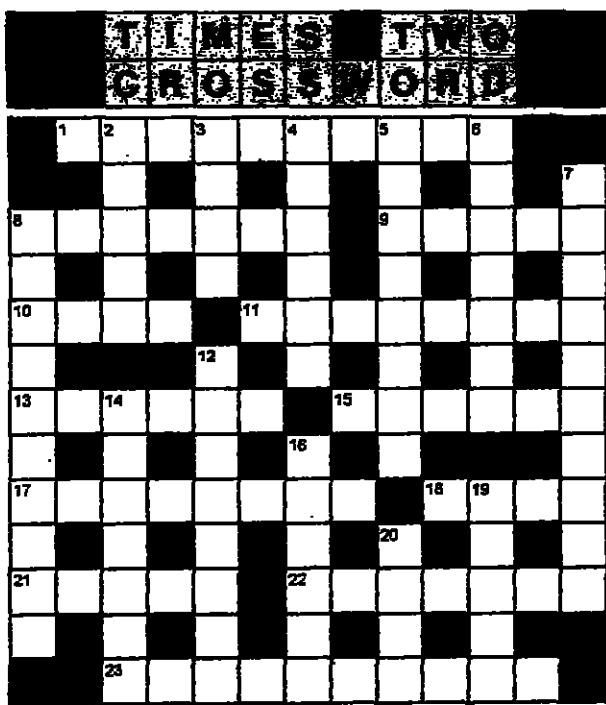
"You just do it, don't you? I have a guaranteed pension income but it is tight. There are a lot of coaches who can do a better job if they have got the funds."

While the BAF is in administration, this scheme is financed by the World Class Performance programme, which is funded by the National Lottery and is immune from the governing body's crisis. The money comes from

the £1.4 million a year made available for development of the sport and will be administered by Performance Athletic Services Ltd, the performance arm of British Athletics.

This is the first new programme financed by lottery money, although some have been used to pay the salaries of the BAF's performance and technical directors, and support staff. Fifteen athletes have been named as eligible to apply for personal coach funding. The list can change depending on performance.

Iwan Thomas, the British 400 metres record-holder, who is one of the athletes on the list, is pleased that his coach, Mike Smith, will have his burden eased. "Mike comes training every night and nobody pays him anything," Thomas said. "I know he needs a new car. Perhaps he could use the money for that."



No 1255

ACROSS

- 1 Four countries (5,5)
- 8 Indignant state, always high (7)
- 9 Bowls river/tributary zone (5)
- 10 A mammal: a wax impress (4)
- 11 Slightly salty (water) (8)
- 13 Make steep rope descent (6)
- 15 Piece starting beside rock (6)
- 17 One attending monarch (8)
- 18 Hit (two): bit of ticket (4)
- 21 Give the slip to (5)
- 22 Take the chair (7)
- 23 Wrecked with ice (2,3,5)

DOWN

- 2 Many-headed monster (5)
- 3 Stagger: country dance (4)
- 4 Break (weather) (6)
- 5 Ruddy (complexion) (8)
- 6 Stylish: hurrying (7)
- 7 Available to eat, discuss (2,3,5)
- 8 Posted; finished; killed (10)
- 12 A salute (8)
- 14 With indistinct outline (painting) (7)
- 16 Folk (6)
- 19 Piece of conjuring (5)
- 20 Brave person (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1254

- ACROSS: 1 Rice 3 Shamrock 9 Queue 10 Panache 11 Impinge 12 Cruz 14 Avlary 16 Absorb 18 Step 19 Haggard 22 Draenda 23 Zaire 24 Suspense 25 Tent
- DOWN: 1 Requital 2 Cheap in trays 4 Hopper 5 Minicab 6 Once upon a time 7 Keen 8 Dean 13 Obedient 15 Rapture 17 Shears 20 Gaze 21 Odds

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